

Aziz not expected to rescind arms inspection ban

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, contrary to some expectations, is not expected to rescind Baghdad's ban on arms inspections when he meets U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Friday, a U.N. spokesman said. Annan, after a working dinner with Aziz on Wednesday, said progress had been made. But his spokesman Fred Eckhardt told reporters on Friday: "I don't think anything definitive is going to come out of today's meeting." Aziz, who arrived at the United Nations on Monday with several officials from Baghdad, has spoken to nearly all Security Council members. Iraqi sources said he planned to leave over the weekend.

Prince Andrew undergoes drug tests

LONDON (AP) — Prince Andrew, the second son of Queen Elizabeth II, is undergoing drug tests as part of a routine medical check-up, a spokesman for the prince said. The prince's spokesman said the tests were part of a routine medical check-up and that the prince was happy to take the tests. The spokesman also said that the prince was happy to take the tests.

Man thought to be angry, but out dead

MEXICO CITY — A man who was thought to be angry, but was found dead, was the victim of a shooting. The man was found dead in a car. The police are investigating the case.

New treatment keeps under dry for months

SAN FRANCISCO — A new treatment for a disease has been developed. The treatment is called 'X' and it is expected to be a breakthrough. The treatment is being tested on a group of patients.

Judge receives rare public reprimand

PHOENIX — A judge has received a rare public reprimand for his conduct. The judge was found to have been in violation of the judicial code of ethics.

Stolen statue of Jesus turned marijuana

SAN FRANCISCO — A statue of Jesus that was stolen from a church has been found. The statue was found in a field. The police are investigating the case.

US

US

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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'Mislabelling might be the reason inoculated pupils were hospitalised'

By Francesca Ciriaci

AMMAN — Experts are considering "mislabelling" as a possible reason behind hundreds of students being hospitalised last week after receiving vaccines in a national immunisation campaign.

According to a member of the special committee investigating the incidents, the Hungarian manufacturer of the vaccines, which were donated by the United Nations Children's Fund to the Ministry of Health last year, might possibly have labelled the vials as D&T (diphtheria and tetanus), when instead they contained serum for a triple vaccine.

Experts argued that a third letter in addition to "D" and "T" could have been erroneously omitted from the labelling.

However, Health Minister Nael Ajlouni and other officials reiterated that the real causes of the incident, which they say is now completely over, will only

be clear later this week, when the results of laboratory tests ordered by a special investigating committee are to be published.

"We analysed the D&T vaccines, and they resulted free from contamination and bacteria," said Dr. Najwa Khouri from the Jordan University Hospital, where around 65 tenth-graders were admitted last week after complaining of dizziness, nausea, headache, and fever.

"We also looked into the safety of inoculation procedures and the syringes [used in the immunisation campaign], which were all disposable," she said.

"Vaccines come in several formulations, and they could have possibly been mislabelled," Khouri told the Jordan Times on Friday, trying to explain the unusually high frequency of students presenting symptoms after the inoculation.

Ajlouni had already suggested the same explanation earlier, although falling short of relating the incidents to an error

by the manufacturer.

He told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview on Wednesday that "little traces of whooping cough vaccine in the [tetanus] vaccines, for example, could produce such symptoms [as were presented by the students] for 24 hours [following the administration of the shot]."

Other possible causes for the incidents, such as improper refrigeration of the serum or its expiration, had been ruled out by officials.

They stressed that both vials and refrigerators used to store the vaccines were equipped with indicators showing if and when the serum warns up and must be discarded.

UNICEF representative in Jordan Mislak Elias has pointed out that the vaccines met all required international and national standards at the time of their delivery to the ministry.

UNICEF experts have also said that the vaccines expired in November, but

the fact that they were inoculated only a few weeks prior to their expiry date could not be considered as a possible cause for the students' illness.

All sources, including the minister, stressed that the symptoms presented by around 500 boys and girls referred to hospitals in various governorates as of Friday were not unusual.

"What was unusual was the frequency of the cases," Khouri said.

Ajlouni was reported on Friday as saying that 25,744 students were inoculated in the immunisation campaign, which was launched by the Ministry of Health on Sept. 16.

Tenth-graders, among whom most cases of high susceptibility were reported, accounted for 10,000 of the total number of students inoculated in the campaign, which was halted last week pending the results of the laboratory tests.

Ajlouni told the Jordan Times that most of the stu-

dents referred to hospitals last week had been discharged.

Jordan University Hospital said late yesterday only two students were being held under observation, both for symptoms unrelated to the vaccination.

The high possibility of side effects following the inoculation of certain vaccines has long been at the centre of heated debates in most countries all over the world.

In some European countries, where school vaccinations are compulsory for all students, some groups have lobbied, but with no success, for vaccines to be administered only after parental authorisation.

But, notwithstanding their debatable contraindications, vaccines remain the only defence against deadly diseases all over the world.

In Jordan, they have played a crucial role in achieving high health standards, Ajlouni pointed out.

King receives message of good wishes from Saudi crown prince

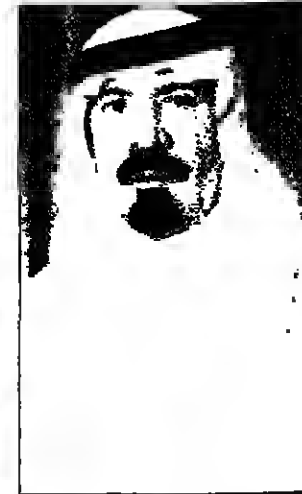
AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein, currently undergoing chemotherapy treatment at Mayo Clinic in the U.S., has received a letter from Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz expressing the Saudi royal family's wishes for the King's recovery and well-being.

Prince Abdullah, who visited the Monarch recently, said in the letter that his visit to King Hussein "was prompted by the true affection and appreciation which I cherish for you, because we are tied by strong bonds not liable to be affected by events or developments."

"We are confident that the future, with God's will, is bound to bring us the good news of your return to the Arab and Muslim homeland as a leader and a brother exercising his historic role along with his Arab brothers to deal with the challenges with great resolve and determination," Prince Abdullah said in his letter.

Replying to a letter he had received from the King, Prince Abdullah said he was deeply touched by the letter which reflected the true feelings among brothers.

"I look forward to your visit to Saudi Arabia to be among your brothers; and please remember that King Fahd, myself and the rest of the royal family in Saudi



Arabia support you in happy and difficult days alike," the prince said.

King Hussein had thanked Prince Abdullah for his gift of saffron and water from Zamzem water — well close to the holy shrines in Mecca — blessed by a prominent religious leader of Saudi Arabia.

In Gaza, the leader of the Palestinian Resistance Movement, Hamas, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin has thanked King Hussein for his efforts that secured his release from an Israeli jail one year ago and wished him good health.

Addressing a press conference in Gaza marking the first anniversary of his release from detention, Yassin said King Hussein played a pivotal role in securing his release together

with several Palestinian detainees.

Yassin said he highly valued Jordan's continued efforts in support of the Palestinian people's cause on all fronts and at all levels.

Israel freed Yassin, who was serving a life sentence, last October in a deal with Jordan to obtain the release of two Mossad agents caught in a bungled attempt to assassinate a senior Hamas political official in Amman.

Sheikh Yassin, who wished King Hussein full recovery, stressed that the Palestinians have the full right to establish their independent state.

King Hussein has been undergoing chemotherapy treatment since July 14 when he checked into Mayo Clinic.

Tarawneh leaves for U.S. for meeting with King

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh left for Washington early Friday to meet with His Majesty King Hussein and listen to his directives on issues of concern to Jordan, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

It said Tarawneh will also meet a number of U.S. officials to discuss bilateral relations and Middle East issues, particularly ways to give impetus to the peace process.

The prime minister was quoted by the French news agency as saying before departure that he intends to urge the U.S. to pressure Israel into accepting a month-old American peace initiative.

The U.S. is calling for Israel to carry out long overdue troop withdrawals from a further 13 per cent of the West Bank, coupled with Palestinian measures to fight anti-Israeli violence.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and her Middle East mediator Dennis Ross are due in the region on Tuesday to pursue negotiations ahead of a three-way summit meeting later this month gathering President Bill Clinton, Palestine leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The prime minister last week said during his visit to Washington he will urge the

Clinton administration "in the bluntest of terms" to facilitate Jordanian trade with the West Bank and Gaza Strip, until now hindered by Israeli restrictions, despite signed agreements among all concerned parties.

Referring to a deal reached last month with the Palestinians on trade exchanges between Jordan and the self-rule areas of Palestine, Tarawneh said, "we are now armed with an agreement with the Palestinians on the movement of goods, customs and border measures" adding that Jordan intends to "penetrate Israel's economic siege on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."



A Palestinian injured by a rubber bullet during clashes with Israeli troops is evacuated from the scene of the disturbances in the centre of the West Bank town of Hebron on Friday. On Friday Israel sealed its borders with the West Bank and Gaza indefinitely following warnings by the defence minister that the Islamist group Hamas plotted an 'unprecedented horrific' attack in Israel (AP photo)

In effort to fight unemployment, government cracks down on illegal workers

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — Only hours after the government decided to crack down on illegal foreign workers Wednesday, the authorities started a sweeping campaign arresting hundreds of workers, mostly Asians.

A senior government official told the Jordan Times Friday that the campaign is part of the government's drive to combat unemployment.

Minister of Interior Nayef Al Qadi said that authorities are targeting illegal foreign labourers. "The aim of this campaign is to put an end to those who are working illegally in the country without permits," Qadi said.

Successive governments have turned a blind eye on the controversial issue of cracking down on illegal workers in order not to upset Arab countries, especially Egypt, Syria and Iraq where the bulk of those workers come from.

According to a government official requesting anonymity, the crackdown

is a gradual process.

"At a later stage we will start pursuing illegal Arab workers. We did not want to start with them now to avoid unnecessary problems with Arab states."

"We have no timetable when we will target Arab labourers but the message is clear that they should approach police stations to correct their status in the country as soon as possible," the official said.

According to the interior minister, "we have no exact figures about how many foreign workers are living and working in the country. We want to know how many of them are living here."

"We are arresting nobody, but the campaign is merely to check their working status and that they are not violating the rules," Qadi said, adding the authorities have carried out their duties in a humane and civilised manner.

"On Wednesday night at 12 o'clock, some policemen knocked my door in

Jabat Amman and arrested me," an Indian national who holds a valid working permit told the Jordan Times.

"I asked them to give me some time to change my clothes, which they did, and after that I followed them to the police station," he added.

"They treated us very well and the condition inside the detention centre was good. But there were no communication facilities in the centre and that was the great problem for us," the Indian national, who asked not to be named, said. He was released after 48 hours in jail.

A European diplomat, who asked not to be named, said that a Sri Lankan domestic worker at his house was apprehended by police at 10 p.m. on Wednesday and was not permitted to contact him.

"I headed to the police station on Thursday morning and produced the necessary papers to free her," the diplomat told the Jordan Times.

"Around 20 maids were surdined in

a 4x4-metre room at the detention cell," he said.

"Many foreign diplomats have faced the same situation," he said adding that several of them planned to complain to the Foreign Ministry on Saturday or Sunday.

Ruperto Dizon, the Filipino ambassador to Jordan told the Jordan Times that about 170 foreign workers were rounded up on Wednesday, 105 of them were Filipinos.

Dizon said 76 of them, including 50 women, were released on Thursday.

"The police did not allow them to contact their employers although most of them have legal work permits," the ambassador said.

"Some of those who were arrested are domestic helpers working at the U.S., U.K., and other foreign embassies as well as the Royal Court," Dizon said.

"I am not sure that we will submit a complaint but at least we will inquire why such things happened," he said. At least 3,000 Filipinos are believed

to be working in the Kingdom.

A spokesman for the Sri Lankan embassy in Amman, who asked not to be named, said the embassy supports any measure the Jordanian government takes to enforce the law to end what he described as employment of "part-time girls."

"Some foreign maids have fled the houses of their employers and live illegally in the country. They work as part-time maids in several houses. Some of them have turned these houses into whore houses. Such things should come to an end," he said.

The crackdown has spread panic among many of the 300,000 foreign workers, who have no valid working permits. Government officials said that the total number of foreign workers in the Kingdom could be as high as 750,000.

Measures to replace foreign labourers with Jordanians have often been rejected by Jordanian industrialists and businesspersons who also have

often complained of the inefficiency of Jordanian labourers and lack of alternatives, especially in the services sector.

The government of Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh which took office on August 20 was ordered by His Majesty King Hussein to rectify the imbalance in the labour market and fight other social ills plaguing the country such as poverty, bureaucracy and corruption.

A recent conference on unemployment in the country decided to form a committee to follow up on the jobless problem and come up with measures to eradicate it.

Speaking at a meeting at the Prime Ministry on Wednesday, Tarawneh said that his cabinet has begun taking measures to deal with the unemployment and non-Jordanians working in the country illegally.

Unemployment has been officially estimated at about 17 per cent and independently at as high as 27 per cent.

Turkey recalls ambassador from Rome in row over Kurdish 'parliament'

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey has recalled its ambassador to Italy after Kurdish exiles were permitted to hold a two-day meeting within the parliament building in Rome, a source close to the Turkish foreign ministry said Friday.

A Turkish official had already warned that the incident affects relations between the two NATO allies, and observers said Friday that Italy's chances of winning a large defence contract to build attack helicopters might have been compromised.

The ministry source said the ambassador, Inal Banu, had been recalled "for consultations" and was expected to return to Ankara on Monday. He was recalled after the self-styled Kurdish parliament in exile held a meeting Tuesday and Wednesday in a room at the Italian parliament with the backing of Italian communist party deputies.

The "parliament," set up in 1994, has links to the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) and a senior foreign ministry official, Korkmaz

Hakani, told journalists here Wednesday that it was "a serious mistake" for Italy to allow it to meet in Rome.

Ankara regards the PKK as a terrorist organisation. Some 31,000 people have died in related violence since the PKK launched a rebellion in 1984 to demand an independent Kurdish state in south-eastern Turkey.

Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini expressed regrets but pointed out that his government had no means to prevent the meeting.

In a letter to his Turkish counterpart, Ismail Cem, made public here on Thursday, Dini said: "However much the government and I regret this incident, it fell within the prerogatives of members of our parliament."

Dini added that he hoped "that this episode will not affect the excellent relations between our two countries."

Judging by Hakani's remarks and Turkish press comment, relations have already been hurt. "If Italy attaches any impor-

tance to Turkish-Italian relations and to commitments made on the international level and within NATO," Hakani said, "it must rectify this mistake."

Turkish newspapers pointed out that 600 Italian firms do business in Turkey and suggested that they might be in the front line if Turkey decided to engage in "commercial diplomacy" in protest.

Political observers said the Italians were particularly active in the defence and construction sectors and that the Agusta company had hopes of winning a large contract for the joint manufacture of 145 attack helicopters.

The contract is worth about four billion dollars and the Turkish government is expected to announce next year who its chosen partners are.

Other Italian firms are likely to tender for contracts to build a third bridge across the Bosphorus at Istanbul when bids are invited in the near future.



NO WARM WELCOME: An Israeli ultra-orthodox Friday looks at posters put up by Israeli hard-liners in Jerusalem who are protesting against the upcoming visit of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and envoy Dennis Ross. Albright and Ross are due in Jerusalem on October 6 to prepare for a mid-October Israeli-Palestinian summit in Washington aimed at unblocking the Middle East peace process. Israeli hard-liners claim Albright and Ross want to get more concessions from Israel (AFP photo)

Israeli cargo plane carried nerve gas component

TEL AVIV (AP) — An El Al cargo plane that crashed in an Amsterdam residential area in 1992 was carrying a chemical that can be used in making the nerve gas sarin, the Israeli government acknowledged for the first time Thursday.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in a press statement that Israel's Biological Institute had ordered 190 liters of dimethyl methylphosphonate (DMMP), a key component of sarin. The statement said the order had been made "with the approval of the U.S. Department of Commerce for the testing of filters."

Reports have said Israel was making chemical and biological weapons at its top secret Biological Institute in the Tel Aviv suburb of Nes Ziona. The government has made almost no comment on the reports except to call them "inaccurate."

Last appeal of Istanbul's mayor rejected

ANKARA (AP) — An appeals court on Friday refused to review the conviction and 10-month-prison term of Istanbul's Islamic mayor, thus leaving him banned for life from holding public office.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, seen as the future leader of Turkey's pro-Islamic Virtue Party, had asked the appeals court to review its decision last week to uphold the conviction for inciting racial hatred.

The head prosecutor of appeals court rejected his request, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

His sentencing was criticised both by the United States and the European Union.

Turkey is a predominantly Muslim country governed by staunchly secular laws.

The courts convicted Erdogan of inciting racial hatred with a two-line poem: "Minarets are our bayonets, domes are our helmets, mosques are our barracks, believers are our soldiers."

Israeli official alleges cover-up over Rabin assassination

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli minister accused the government Friday of concealing evidence related to the role of a former state security informer in the 1995 assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Michael Eitan, deputy minister in the prime minister's office, leaked sections of the minutes of a 1997 cabinet meeting to the Yedioth Aharanot newspaper which he said showed that the justice ministry and the Israeli internal security agency Shin Bet "did not reveal the truth" to the cabinet.

The former agent, Avishai Rabin, was engaged by the Shin Bet to infiltrate right-wing Jewish extremist groups and has been accused of having prior knowledge of the

plans of Rabin's assassin, Yigal Amir, and of not informing the Shin Bet.

Eitan told Yedioth that in a cabinet meeting aimed at determining whether to bring charges against Rabin, the head of the Shin Bet refused to deliver even marginal information related to the case.

Rabin's shadowy role has led the Israeli authorities to examine the possibility of charging him in connection with the assassination. There is now renewed pressure on the state to bring charges against Rabin, who worked under the codename "Champagne."

He has been accused of stirring up sentiment which led to the 1995 murder of Rabin. He also attended a number of violent anti-Rabin protests by Jewish extremist groups.

U.S. denies deal to release Pollard

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House on Thursday denied a report that the United States and Israel had reached an agreement to release Jonathan Pollard, an American Jew jailed for life in the United States for spying for Israel.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had raised Pollard's case when he visited the White House on Monday but denied there was a deal to release the former U.S. naval intelligence officer.

Pollard, who is serving a life sentence, was caught passing to Israel information on Arab countries he said the United States had withheld from its ally.

"The president discussed it briefly and accepted the expression of concern made by the prime minister, but indicated that there was no

change in our views on the matter and certainly no agreement," McCurry said at his daily briefing.

An Israeli lawmaker said earlier on Thursday that a future U.S.-brokered Israeli-Palestinian peace deal could include the release of Pollard.

Ophir Pines, an opposition Labour party lawmaker who heads a legislative lobby for Pollard, said he was not surprised by a report in Israeli daily Yedioth Aharonot that U.S. and Israeli leaders agreed this week to clear the way for his release.

"I estimated that as the second redeployment neared, the government would make an intensive effort to secure his release as part of this sort of package deal," Pines said in reference to a planned handover of more West Bank land to Palestinians.

A spokesman for Netanyahu, who visited the

White House with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat this week to discuss a further Israeli troop withdrawal, also said no agreement had been reached.

McCurry said Clinton denied Pollard's last request for clemency in July 1996 and said there was no application for his release pending, adding that such an appeal would have to be made through the U.S. Justice Department.

Pollard's wife, Esther Pollard, told Israeli army radio she had no knowledge of such a deal. "From what we know this was not raised in a serious way with Clinton. And according to the most reliable sources in Washington, nothing was agreed," she said.

In May, Israel for the first time recognised Pollard as its agent, 13 years after it denied him sanctuary in its Washington embassy.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Greece pledges planes in war games

LARNACA (AFP) — Greek fighter planes will participate in National Guard war games dubbed "Nikiforos" to be held on Cyprus later this month, Greek Defence Minister Akis Tsohatzopoulos said Friday. "Nikiforos" takes place in the middle of October and it is foreseen that Greek fighter jets will participate. Tsohatzopoulos said at the end of a three-day visit to Cyprus during which he attended the independence day military parade, Greek fighter planes last flew over Cyprus in March landing at a new airbase at Paphos in the south of this eastern Mediterranean island.

Sudan says over 500 Ugandan troops killed

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's army has killed more than 500 Ugandan soldiers who Khartoum says were invading the southern part of the country, the Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) reported Friday, quoting a military spokesman. "The armed forces have managed up to now to kill over 500 of the invading troops, destroy or seize 17 tanks and five armoured vehicles," Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Sir Al Khatim was quoted by SUNA as saying. Al Khatim told the seminar his troops had destroyed two Ugandan brigades which were fighting government forces in the Eastern Equatoria state of southern Sudan.

Over 100 dead in tribal conflict in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) — More than 100 people were killed in recent clashes between two Sudanese tribes in the west of the country, the Akhbar Assabah newspaper reported Friday. The conflict in southern Darfur pitted members of the dominant Habaniyah tribe against Abu Durei tribesmen seeking autonomy in Buram province. The Abu Durei tribesmen fled the province following the clashes, the newspaper said. They had sought an "independent local administration" in the province, which is controlled by the Habaniyah tribe.

Turkey, Macedonia to discuss Balkans

ANKARA (AFP) — President Suleymen Demirel left Turkey Friday for an official two-day visit to Macedonia to discuss the former Yugoslav Republic's independence and position in the world. "Turkey will continue to support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Macedonia," Anatolia news agency quoted Demirel as saying, adding that the situation in Kosovo would also be discussed. Demirel will meet with Macedonian Foreign Minister Kiro Gligorov and is to renew agreements concerning agriculture and cooperation in scientific and technical research.

U.S. adds charges against embassy bombing suspect

NEW YORK (AFP) — Federal prosecutors here have added two charges against an associate of the Saudi Arabian millionaire suspected of masterminding the bombings of U.S. embassies in Africa in August.

Mahmoud Salim, 40, arrested in Munich, Germany two weeks ago, was charged in an amended federal complaint with taking part in a conspiracy to attack U.S. military sites abroad and a conspiracy to transport explosives.

Last week, federal prosecutors

charged the Sudan-born Salim with murder conspiracy and use of a weapon of mass destruction.

The Aug. 7 blast in Nairobi killed 247 people including 12 U.S. citizens and injured nearly 5,000 others. An almost simultaneous blast at the U.S. embassy in Dar Es Salaam killed 11 Tanzanians and injured 72 others.

The new charges filed this week do not detail which site was targeted for attack, only that the conspiracy occurred between 1992 and the present.

In other court papers filed by government prosecutors in the case, they have said they are investigating the role of the Saudi millionaire, Osama Ben Laden, in urging attacks upon U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Yemen. In November 1995, in Riyadh, seven people were killed in a bombing at a U.S.-run military building. In June 1996, 19 U.S. airmen were killed in the bombing of an apartment complex in Dhahran.

Salim has been described by

prosecutors as an influential advisor to Ben Laden and member of his international terrorist organisation Al Qaeda. He allegedly sat on a council which was authorised to issue fatwas or death warrants against enemies of Islam.

A spokesman for the office of Manhattan U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White, who is prosecuting the bombing cases, declined to comment on the latest charges.

The office has announced they will seek Salim's extradition from Germany.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 ...Cartoon — Animaniacs
15:30 ...Clowning Around
16:00 ...Drama — Neighbours
16:30 ...Doc — Peer Pressure
17:00 French Programme — "Faut Pas Rever"
18:00 ...Drama — Wind at My Back (Ep. 1)
19:00 ...Le Journal
19:15 French Programme — "Le cou de Colomb"
19:30 ...News headlines
19:35 ...Murphy Brown
20:00 ...Talk Show — Sirens
21:15 Drama — ABC of Democracy
22:00 ...News in English
22:30 ...Feature film — "Die Hard"
23:59 ...Country Music
00:30 ...End of T.V.

PRAYER TIMES

04:09 ...Fajr
05:26 ...Sunrise
11:25 ...Dhuhr
14:47 ...Asr
17:23 ...Maghreb
18:40 ...Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel.
4624590

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Terra Sancta Church Tel.

4622366
Anglican Church Tel.
4624853/4624811

St. Abram Syrian Orthodox
Church Tel. 4771751
Armenian International Church
Tel. 5865897

German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 5811295

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter
Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la
Salle College Tel. 5661757

Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel.
4646138

Church of Presentation, Sweifeh
Tel. 5920146
The United Catholic Church
Tel. 4624757

The English-Language
Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel.
4892679

The Baptist Church Tel.
4628052
The Armenian Catholic
Church Tel. 4771331
The Armenian Orthodox
Church Tel. 4775261

Min./Max. temp.
Amman ...17/30
Aqaba ...22/35
Deserts ...15/32
Jordan Valley ...22/35

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 30 Aqaba 35. Humidity
readings: Amman 22 per
cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

Following are the highest temperatures
expected today in the
following areas:

Ajloun ...25
Jerash ...31
Um Qays ...29
Madaba ...39
Petra ...31
Dead Sea ...36

USEFUL
TELEPHONE
NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Khaldoun Asfour ...5332600
Dr. Bilal Al Sayyid ...4890280

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department
of Meteorology

Dr. Awni Hawandeh

5332350
Dr. Tawfiq Qub'ain ...4623029
Firas pharmacy ...5661912
Al Asena pharmacy ...4637055
Nairolukh pharmacy ...4623672
Al Salam pharmacy ...4636730
Yacoub pharmacy ...4644845
Shmeisani pharmacy ...4637660
Najib pharmacy ...53477632

IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Ta'ameh ...25080
Al Quds pharmacy ...53477632
ZARQA:
Dr. Akram Haddad ...985550
Khalifeh pharmacy ...985417

Overseas Calls ...010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs ...4623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs ...5661101
Jordan Television ...4773111
Radio Jordan ...4774111
Water Authority ...5680100
J. Electricity Authority ...5815615
Electric Power Co. ...4636381
RJ Flight Information ...44-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport ...44-53200

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and
Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic, Abdul ...5666131/7
Husseini Medical Centre Tel.
585856
Luzmila ...4630195
Khalidi Maternity ...4644281/6
Akileh Maternity ...4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity ...4642362
Malhas J. Amman ...4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani ...5607071
Shmeisani Hospital ...5669131
University Hospital ...5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdul ...5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ...4777101/3
Al-Bashir ...4775111/26
Army, Marka ...891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50
Arnal Hospital ...5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ...4637111
Civil Defence Department 5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue
...4630341
Civil Defence Emergency ...199
Rescue Police 192 4621111, 4657777
Fire Brigade ...4617101
Blood Bank ...4775121
Highway Police ...5343402
Traffic Police ...4896390
Public Security Dept. ...4630321
Hotel Complaints ...5605800
Price Complaints ...5661176
Water & Sewage Complaints ...4897467
Amman Municipality Complaints
...787111
Telephone Information (directory
assistance) ...121

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and
Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic, Abdul ...5666131/7
Husseini Medical Centre Tel.
585856
Luzmila ...4630195
Khalidi Maternity ...4644281/6
Akileh Maternity ...4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity ...4642362
Malhas J. Amman ...4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani ...5607071
Shmeisani Hospital ...5669131
University Hospital ...5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdul ...5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ...4777101/3
Al-Bashir ...4775111/26
Army, Marka ...891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50
Arnal Hospital ...5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT

This information is supplied by
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information
department at the Queen Alia
International Airport Tel.
(44)53200 where it should always
be verified. Information on other
flights is obtained on telephone
(44) 52700 or (44) 523250.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:10 ...Tehran (RJ)

07:30 ...Damascus (RJ)
08:45 ...New Delhi (RJ)
09:25 ...Beirut (RJ)
09:30 ...Karachi, Dubai (EK)
09:45 ...Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:15 ...Colombo (RJ)
14:55 ...New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:00 ...Cairo (RJ)
16:30 ...London (RJ)
21:55 ...Milan, Rome (RJ)
22:30 ...Frankfurt (RJ)
22:30 ...Paris (RJ)
01:30 ...Madrid (RJ)
04:30 ...Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights
05:05 London, Damascus (BA)
12:00 ...Riyadh (SV)
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18:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka
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22:25 Aqaba (Marka Airport) (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
05:45 ...Beirut (RJ)
10:45 ...Berlin, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:15 ...Milan, Rome (RJ)
11:30 ...Paris, Brussels (RJ)
11:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00 ...Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:10 ...Princeton (RJ)
12:15 ...Cairo (RJ)
13:05 ...London (RJ)
20:05 ...Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
20:20 ...Bombay (RJ)
20:25 ...Jeddah (RJ)
23:30 ...Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

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Queen, Nobel Prize winner celebrate milestone for Mine Ban Treaty

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor and the 1997 Nobel Prize laureate Thursday joined a number of leaders in the worldwide movement to ban landmines at the United Nations in New York to commemorate a milestone in the 1997 Ottawa convention to ban landmines, according to a press release.

Queen Noor, Jody Williams of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy, Norwegian Ambassador to the U.N. Ole Peter Kolby and U.N. Deputy Secretary General Louise Frechette commemorated Burkina Faso's ratification of the treaty two weeks ago. The treaty will now enter into force on March 1, 1999 — faster than any major treaty in history, the statement said.

Queen Noor, who flew in New York before returning to the Mayo Clinic, noted that the states which have acceded to the convention so far are not only nations that led the mine ban treaty negotiations (such as Austria, Canada, Ireland, Norway and South

Africa), but also major producers and exporters of landmines (such as France, Germany, Britain and Hungary), and countries where mines have been used most extensively (such as Bosnia, Croatia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe).

She added that the Ottawa convention is a comprehensive treaty because it not only includes a total ban on the weapon, but also mine clearance, victim assistance and rehabilitation programmes. The Queen, who is the patron of the Landmine Survivors Network, said that in addition to her "long-standing opposition to war, arms proliferation and squandering of vital and scarce resources that should be used for development, I have a particular interest in this issue because I come from one of the most mine-infested regions of the world — where mines planted since World War II and during more recent conflicts are killing innocent men, women and children daily and endangering the agricultural and economic productivity."

According to the

Queen, five out of 18 countries in the region, including Jordan, have signed the treaty but only Yemen has ratified it. Jordan is proceeding with the constitutional procedures to ratification.

Jody Williams, ICBL ambassador, outlined an agenda aimed at bringing recalcitrant governments on board and developing an initiative by the ICBL to monitor the implementation of and compliance with the ban treaty. The monitoring initiative, known as Landmine Monitor, will be the first attempt to establish a civil society-based system for tracking and reporting on compliance with an arms control/humanitarian law treaty. The ICBL has expressed its concern about reports of new mine laying in countries that have signed the ban treaty, such as Angola, as well as extensive use of mines in Kosovo by the government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which has not signed the treaty, the statement added.

Canada, Norway and the Soros Foundation all announced major contri-

butions to the ICBL and its new "Challenge Fund." The fund was established with the approximately \$500,000 Nobel Prize award received by the ICBL. The ICBL is challenging donors, both government and private, to help build the fund to ensure the long-term sustainability of the ICBL, which has been widely hailed as the engine driving the global mine ban movement.

"Without the ICBL, there would not have been a comprehensive ban treaty and we would not have seen its entry into force so rapidly. Through the Challenge Fund we can ensure that non-governmental organisations and civil society can continue to lead the effort to eliminate mines until the day when innocent civilians no longer suffer from this scourge," said Williams.

Attending the conference were U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khatib, Ambassador to the U.S. Marwan Muasher, Prince Zeid Ben Ra'd, Senator Abdul Karim Kaharil and other officials, said the statement.

In address to U.N. General Assembly Jordan calls on Israel to accept U.S. peace proposal

NEW YORK (Petra) — Jordan on Thursday urged the Israeli government to respond to the U.S. peace initiative in order to end the deadlock in the Middle East peace process and demanded that Israel halt its arbitrary measures against the Palestinian people.

In Jordan's address to the U.N. General Assembly, Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khatib emphasised Jordan's continued efforts to achieve a lasting and honourable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Khatib said Jordan supports the American initiative to give impetus to Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. The signing of the 1994 Jordan-Israel peace treaty demonstrated Jordan's commitment to achieving a lasting peace on all Arab-Israeli tracks, he added.

Khatib said the Kingdom appreciates the efforts of the Palestinian leadership and its desire to reach an accord that would end the present deadlock. The foreign minister demanded that the Israeli government respond fully to the U.S. initiative and implement the peace accords. He stressed that Israel using security considerations as an excuse for defaulting on the peace accords prevents genuine progress and further aggravates the situation in the region.

Referring to Jerusalem, Khatib called on Israel to rescind all measures designed to change the character of the Holy City, adding that unilateral measures taken before the completion of the final status

negotiations violate the Oslo accords. The foreign minister demanded that Israel halt all its measures against the Palestinian people, including closures of the Palestinian territories, arbitrary arrests, demolitions of Arab homes, land confiscations and Jewish settlement building.

On the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, Khatib said Jordan attaches great importance to the agency's continued services to Palestinian refugees. He noted that Jordan hosts the greatest number of these refugees and provides them with basic services at a cost almost exceeding that of the agency's annual budget.

Khatib demanded that UNRWA continue its services until the refugee problem has been completely solved and the refugees have been repatriated to their homeland or compensated for their loss of property.

Khatib met in New York Friday his Kuwaiti counterpart Shiekh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah at the Kuwaiti mission. Later Khatib told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the meeting took place in a brotherly atmosphere and the discussion covered issues of common concern and developments in the Middle East.

Present at the meeting were Jordan's permanent ambassador to the U.N. Hassan Abu Nameh and Kuwait's envoy to the U.N. Khatib on Friday held talks with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and other foreign ministers.

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King receives senators Obeidat, Masri

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Thursday received Senators Ahmad Obeidat and Taher Masri at his residence in Washington.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that King Hussein assured them his health was good. Obeidat and Masri wished the King a speedy recovery and safe return home.

The two senators voiced appreciation of their appointment as members of the Upper House of Parliament.

Masri and Obeidat, both outspoken critics of domestic and foreign policies, were appointed senators on Sept. 12.

The Nablus-born Masri served briefly as prime minister in 1991, when Jordan was preparing for the Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

Obeidat is a former intelligence chief who served as prime minister from 1984 to 1985. He was asked to resign from the Senate four years ago after criticising the 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

Obeidat was particularly vocal against the bilateral water arrangement as outlined in the peace deal.

Prosecution completes interrogation of suspects in Rabia, Shmeisani murders

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The state prosecution has completed its interrogation of seven people suspected of involvement in the Rabia and Shmeisani murders in January and May of this year and is expected to refer the case to the state attorney general soon, according to official sources.

State Prosecutor Mahmoud Obeidat, who finished preparing the charge sheet against the suspects, will refer the case to the state attorney general, who in turn will examine the case before referring it to the State Security Court, according to a report in the Arabic daily Al Rai' on Thursday.

A total of 12 people were

killed in the two incidents, including eight Iraqi and Egyptian nationals at a luxurious villa in Rabia on January 17 and three prominent Jordanians in Shmeisani on April 8. A taxi driver believed to be an accomplice of the suspects was found murdered on April 16.

Officials announced the arrest of the suspects in May. The final arrest was made on May 25, when police took a suspect into custody following a shoot-out in Sahab that left his accomplice dead.

Following the incident, then Interior Minister Nathir Rashid said the motive of the murders was purely "financial," putting an end to numerous rumours that linked the killings with foreign countries.

The victims of the Rabia incident included Iraqi Chargé d'Affaires Hikmat Hajou, his wife Laila Sha'ban, Naim Ochi, an Iraqi business man, three other Iraqis and two Egyptians.

Officials said that Ochi was the target and that the rest were killed because they happened to be at the crime scene.

The Shmeisani murders involved a prominent Jordanian lawyer, Hanna Nadeh, his son Suhail and psychiatrist Awni Sa'ad. The three were found dead in Sa'ad's clinic in Shmeisani.

The officials said Sa'ad was the target, adding that the motive of the murder was "personal differences" between the assailants and Sa'ad.

Prince Mohammad celebrates 58th birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Ben Talal, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, celebrated his 58th birthday Friday.

Born in Amman on Oct. 2, 1940, Prince Mohammad was educated at the Islamic College in Amman and pursued higher studies in Switzerland and Britain. He studied at the military college in Baghdad between 1956 and 1957 and later joined the Special Royal Guard before becoming the

King's military aide.

Prince Mohammad was president of both the Jordanian Tribal Chiefs Council in 1971 and the Higher Tourism Council in 1972, and currently directs the Jordanian Shooting Federation, the Royal Shooting Club and the Jordan Chess Federation.

Prince Mohammad married HRH Princess Taghrid in 1981 and has two sons, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Talal and Prince Ghazi.



EC finances surveys for wastewater project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two contracts were signed at the European Commission Delegation Thursday for additional investigations within the European Union-financed feasibility study on wastewater collection, treatment, disposal and reuse systems for the catchment area of the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers, an EC press statement.

The contracts, awarded to local firms for a total of ECU103,000, include

a geotechnical investigation and a topographic survey of the area, which spans the entire north of Jordan with the exception of Amman. A third contract is foreseen for water sampling and will be concluded at a later date, the statement added.

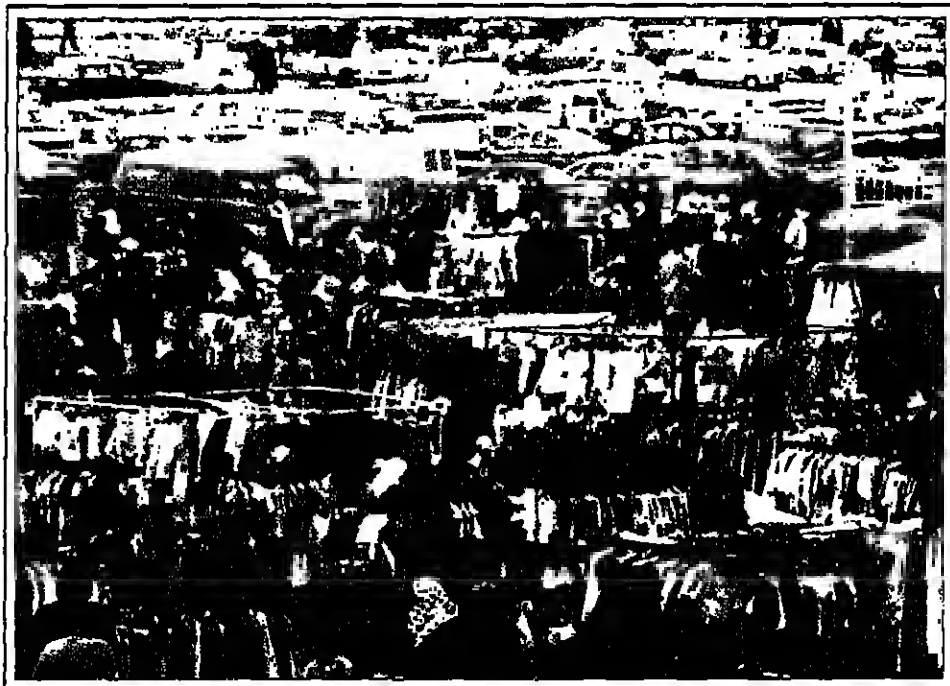
Results of the investigations will be incorporated in the final feasibility study of the "wastewater" project, an ECU780,000 project consisting of the prepara-

tion of technical, economic and financial feasibility studies, preliminary designs and an environmental impact assessment for the main project elements, including new or upgraded wastewater collection networks and treatment plants as well as treatment of agricultural drainage water.

The wastewater study is one of three water sector projects in Jordan financed by the European Union in the framework of the 1994 peace treaty.

The other two are feasibility studies for efficient water storage systems proposed on the Jordan River or other locations in the Jordan Valley and conveyance systems between the Jordan Valley and population centres in northern Jordan.

The conclusion of the contracts brings the amount spent by the European Union on water projects identified in the treaty to ECU2.3 million, the statement said.



SHOPPING TIME: Consumers take in the merchandise Friday at an open-air market in Amman (Photo by Yousef 'Allan)

WHAT'S GOING ON

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER 98 FESTIVAL

"Summer 98" cultural activities at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, to last until Sept. 30, include:

EXHIBITIONS

* 50 years of graphic art from Lebanon and works by Jordanian artist Sahel Hiari at the Main House.

* Works by Iraqi artist Samer Usama and by Jordanian artist Said Haddadin at the Blue House.

* Installation works by Jordanian artist Samia Zaru at the Byzantine Church.

* Exhibition of photographs "Memory of a Place" by Jordanian artist Hussein Da'sh at the Museum.

LECTURES

* "The Generation of 1898 and the Spanish Contemporary Literature" (in Arabic) by Dr. Antoine Khater at the Faculty of Arts, University of Jordan on Sunday Oct. 4 at 1:00 p.m.

* "Ancient Arab, Greek and Jewish Communities on the Dead Sea: Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Jordan" by Dr. Konstantinos Politis (sponsored by the Royal Institute for Inter-faith Studies in cooperation with the Embassy of Greece) at Le Meridien (formerly Forte Grand) at 5:30 p.m. (Tel. 5696183).

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings by Iraqi artist Talal Mikha'il at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Oct. 8.

* Amman Seventh International Book Exhibit at the City Hall, Ras Al 'Ain, until Oct. 10.

* Works by graduates of the Arts Centre (including ceramics, paintings, and sculpture) at the centre, Mahmoud Imani St. (Tel. 5529619), until Oct. 8.

* Exhibition of caricature of Arab personalities at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Oct. 3.

'Environmental impact assessments to become mandatory for development projects'

By Hind-Lara Mango

ANKARA — Jordan is in the process of making environmental impact assessments (EIA) mandatory for all development projects to meet global funding requirements and protect natural resources, environmentalists have said.

Jordanian experts, speaking at a workshop held in Ankara earlier this week, said the Ministry of the Environment last Tuesday approved draft regulations to institutionalise the EIA directorate at the ministry's General Corporation for Environmental Protection (GCEP) as stipulated under the 1995 Environment Law.

The rules, to take effect after approval by the Cabinet, will set a standard EIA mechanism for assessing the environmental impact of all local projects seeking foreign funding, including World Bank aid.

"We hope this draft will be approved before the end of this year," said Yasin Zou'bi, recently appointed as the first director of the four-year-old EIA directorate, which has remained largely toothless in the absence of such

rules.

EIA studies have been largely applied to tourism and water projects in Jordan over the past years, Zou'bi told the seminar, entitled the "Political Economy of the Environment." It ended in Ankara on Thursday.

"The EIA is being implemented at the Aqaba Regional Authority and the Azraq oasis," Zou'bi said.

Jordan's EIA unit is funded by Global Environmental Facilities (GEF) and is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme in Jordan.

"We have conducted various environmental assessments for salt extraction and other agro-chemicals at the Azraq Basin [in northeast Jordan], in the nearby Wadi Rajil Dam and for the aquaculture industry," he added.

The King Hussein Environmental Management Training Programme (KHEMTP) is helping set up local institutions and trainers to support the legal framework of the implementation of the EIA regulations.

"This will provide the country with the proper expertise to develop its economy and simultaneously protect its natural and

human environment," said KHEMTP National Coordinator Suhair Khatib.

The GCEP is focusing on training governmental and non-governmental organisations as well as the private sector, which will enforce EIA terms of reference and review project reports.

World Bank officials told the seminar their institution had encouraged the establishment of national EIA systems since 1987 to help sustain development.

The workshop highlighted that projects would have to integrate economic and biophysical systems in order to maximise available resources.

"When relating economic policies to the environment, economic growth is constrained by the sustainability of resources," said Fadi Doumani from the Economic Development Institute (EDI) at the World Bank, adding that "constraints are established through the political process."

Most developing countries suffer from the lack of regulations related to environment protection.

"EIA is country specific," said Joseph Leitmann, a senior urban planner at the World Bank.

"Usually some sort of screening takes place where certain projects are automatically subject to EIA such as a chemical factory, or projects located in an environmentally sensitive area which might disrupt a watershed or biodiversity of a particular ecosystem," Leitmann added.

But because classic EIA is a reactive process in which environmental problems are dealt with in relation to a particular project, strategic EIA has been introduced.

"This allows for an analysis of the industrial sector, and how planned industrial projects might affect each other," said Leitmann.

"Strategic EIA allows for global environmental assessment to determine possible outcomes of a range of projects on global environmental problems like global warming. It goes beyond project-by-project analysis and helps in determining the impacts of programmes and policies," he added.

The EDI's environmental strategy objective is to enable World Bank borrowers to initiate and implement environmental economic studies, and to identify policies and investments ensuring sustainable development.

German SPD, Greens share common ground, but differences too

BOON (AFP) — They may be best political pals now as they get ready for government, but Germany's Social Democrats and Greens must avoid falling out over the next three weeks to make their planned coalition work.

No one really expects their coalition talks, which began Friday, to fail. They share enough common ground, and too strong a thirst for change after 16 years under Helmut Kohl, for that.

However they must still gloss over differences on issues such as defence, petrol pump prices, the pace of nuclear dismantling and foreign policy to be able to forge an agreement inside their own time-frame of three weeks.

Even before the negotiations started, both sides tried to stake out their positions.

Schroeder set the tone Monday, a day after his Social Democrats (SPD) won elections against Kohl's government, saying his party will not compromise on economic stability, domestic security and continuity in foreign policy.

It was a point repeated by party leaders over the week, the latest being secretary general Franz Muensterfer, who warned the Greens in an interview published Friday against "exaggerated demands."

On the other hand, the Greens have been demanding four cabinet seats and equal footing in the talks.

Following are the main areas of discussion:

Unemployment: Both SPD and Greens have put tackling unemployment as their top priority, and are in broad agreement. They aim to form a pact for labour uniting employers, unions and government and to reduce working hours.

Tax reform: The SPD wants to cut the top rate of tax from 53 to 49 per cent and the lowest rate from 25.9 to 15 per cent. The Greens would cut the highest rate to 45 per cent and the lowest to 13.5 per cent, and also want to introduce an "ecology tax" on energy to finance cuts in non-wage labour costs. Both aim to get more state money to families.

Petrol: One of the major areas of difference. The Greens want to increase petrol pump prices by up to 26 pfennig (15 cents) per litre — it is roughly 1.50 mark now — to offset social costs and help tackle unemployment. The SPD says six pfennig is enough.

Nuclear power: Another bone of contention. SPD and Greens agree on getting rid of nuclear energy as a power source, but while the SPD foresees a lengthy dismantling programme of up to 30 years,

the Greens want it scrapped as soon as possible.

Defence: The Greens aim to reduce the Bundeswehr, the German army, by half and scrap national service. The SPD wants to keep things as they are.

Foreign policy: The Greens have called for NATO's eventual dissolution and do not want Bundeswehr troops in peacekeeping missions. The SPD stands behind NATO and says the Bundeswehr can take part in U.N.-approved missions.

Citizenship: Both parties aim to allow children born of immigrant parents in Germany to acquire dual nationality. The Greens want it to apply to all, the SPD only to those with at least one parent born also in Germany.

Security: Again, the difference is in the detail. The SPD follows a hard line on crime, the Greens want to focus more on crime prevention.

Once the main themes have been hammered out, the negotiating begins over the cabinet. For the Greens, Joschka Fischer and Juergen Trittin are widely expected to get the foreign and environment ministries respectively.

If the Greens get a third seat, it will go to a woman under party rules on equal representation.

Hitting hepatitis early and hard may work better

WASHINGTON (R) — Hitting the hepatitis C virus early and hard may be the best way to keep it under control, researchers said Thursday.

Just as researchers have found with the HIV virus that causes AIDS, quick drug treatment can damp down the hepatitis virus's attempts to spread in the body, teams at Bar-Ilan University in Israel and the University of Illinois at Chicago reported.

"You want to treat the patients hard with drug therapy in the beginning and shut down production of the virus," Dr. Thomas Layden of the University of Illinois said in a statement.

"This way you prevent drug-resistant mutations

from developing," Avidan Neumann and colleagues in Israel used interferon a-2b (IFN), sold under the name Intron by Schering-Plough Corp., to treat hepatitis C. They used a mathematical model to analyse how the virus progressed in 23 patients.

Studies had indicated that the drug — a genetically engineered version of a natural immune system chemical — worked by preventing the virus from infecting cells.

But Neumann's team found that IFN can also block the production or release of the virus and that larger doses given early on could hamper viral growth.

Patients given Intron very early in their infection had a drop in viral load —

the amount of measurable virus in the blood — after just two days.

"Initially treating aggressively should be considered as a means of increasing the success of therapy," they concluded in their report, published in the journal Science.

Hepatitis C infects between 2 and 15 per cent of people around the world. It attacks the liver and up to three percent of victims develop liver cancer.

Drug treatment, such as IFN, works only in a percentage of cases. Neumann's team said they hope their findings can help — but most patients do not know they are infected right away as there are few initial symptoms.



Former Rwandan Mayor Jean Paul Akayesu listens as the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal in Rwanda read the verdict in his case, the first to be concluded after the 1994 Rwandan genocide in which some 800,000 Tutsis were killed. The U.N. Tribunal sentenced Akayesu, convicted of crimes against humanity and genocide, to life imprisonment (Reuters photo)

U.N. tribunal sentences Rwandan mayor to life

ARUSHA, Tanzania (AFP) — Jean-Paul Akayesu, sentenced Friday to life imprisonment by a U.N. war crimes tribunal for genocide and acts against humanity, was a cog in the wheel in the systematic killing that engulfed Rwanda in 1994.

Unlike others facing trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, such as former Premier Jean Kambanda and Colonel Theoneste Bagasora, a senior defence ministry official during the genocide, Akayesu was merely the mayor of Taba, a small town in the central Gitarama district.

He was not involved in the planning of the mass slaughter that claimed between 500,000 and 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutu lives from April to July 1994.

Akayesu was prosecuted for having incited the killing of more than 2,000 Tutsis in Taba, but was not accused of carrying out murders or acts of sexual violence himself.

A former teacher and then inspector schools, Akayesu, now 45, entered politics in 1991 in Republican Democratic Movement (MDR), in opposition to then president Juvenal Habyarimana. The party was divided over whether to support the then rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front, the Tutsi-dominated movement that came to power in Kigali after defeating the Rwandan Armed Forces (FAR) and allied Hutu extremist militia.

Akayesu headed the MDR's section in Taba and was elected mayor in April 1993. He remained in the

post until he fled Rwanda at the height of the genocide in June 1994.

Most of the 41 witnesses who testified at his trial said that in the first days of the bloodbath, which erupted April 7 following the death of Habyarimana in a plane, Akayesu was opposed to the murderous Hutu extremists, known as Interahamwe.

Prosecutors said he later shifted into the camp of the extremists and helped to organise massacres, while his defence portrayed him as a hostage to the Interahamwe, too weak to oppose them.

Akayesu was arrested on Oct. 10, 1995, in Zambia and transferred May 26, 1996, to Arusha, where his trial began January 9, 1997.

He is married with five children.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gunman surrenders in Marseille plane hijack drama

MARSEILLE, France (AFP) — A French gunman who hijacked a small plane to Marseille Friday and took some 15 people hostage has turned himself in to police, officials said. The gunman, a 55-year-old with an axe to grind against his former employer, the Dassault aeronautics firm, had forced the pilot to change his flight path and land at Marseille airport. The Falcon chartered by Dassault-Industrie, makers of the Mirage and Rafale fighter planes, was hijacked shortly after taking off from Istres, near Marseille, bound for Paris. The hijacker, armed with a pump-action rifle and a grenade, released 12 people but continued to hold several hostage while demanding the presence of lawyer Gilbert Collard. Shortly after negotiations began with Collard and a police officer, the gunman surrendered. "The hostage-taker is very calm," an official said as talks were underway. There was no immediate information on his demands or on his problems with Dassault. Officials said the Falcon was carrying 12 people, including the gunman, and three crew.

Hollywood pays tribute to Jeanne Moreau

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AFP) — The U.S. film industry paid tribute to French actress Jeanne Moreau, with Film Association President Jack Valenty calling her, "the stuff from which legends and myths are made." During a ceremony hosted by actress Sharon Stone at the Academy of Arts and Sciences, which hands out the Oscars, excerpts from 20 films directed by Moreau were shown, tracing the actress' 50-year-long film career. Opening with scenes from Louis Malle's "Viva Maria," the film tribute ran for two-and-a-half hours, ending with "Mama," Moreau's first music video for the singer Khadja Nin. In her personal homage, Stone said Moreau was very close to her. Being her friend is simple, true, consistent, generous beyond belief and incredibly important for me," she said. Greeted by a thunderous applause as she stood next to a life-size Oscar, Moreau said it was an honour to receive her tribute standing next to the most desirable man in the film world. Alternating between her native French and English, Moreau said she was initially reluctant to receive her homage. "It entailed looking backwards," she said, adding that while it was magnificent, "I'm not too crazy about the past."

Pupil expelled for drugs from princes' school

WINDSOR, England (AFP) — A pupil has been expelled for taking drugs at Eton, the public school where Princes William and Harry study, the school confirmed Friday. After newspaper reports that a 16-year-old boy had been excluded for smoking cannabis, a school spokeswoman said: "I can confirm that a boy was asked to leave the school earlier this week in connection with a drugs incident." She declined to give further details, adding: "This is an internal matter, which has been dealt with by the headmaster, who will not comment on disciplinary matters within the school." The school, west of London, which charges £13,410 (\$22,500) per term, has been dogged by similar cases in the recent past. Several boys have been expelled for smoking cannabis or being caught in possession of amphetamines or the designer drug ecstasy. Headmaster John Lewis has maintained a strict approach towards illegal drugs since he took over in 1994. Lewis, who is from New Zealand, introduced drugs testing for the boys in 1996, making Eton the highest profile member of a growing body of independent schools which have adopted testing. A police spokesman said no legal action would be taken.

Treating pooches could land one in jail

CINCINNATI (AP) — A chiropractor's golden touch for a pair of man's best friends could land her in jail. Katherine Zabinski, a licensed chiropractor, treated Sherlock the dachshund and Aiko the golden retriever, dogs in such severe pain that their owners considered having them euthanised. After the treatment, the dogs perked up, the owners said. But Zabinski now faces 21 misdemeanor counts of practicing veterinary medicine without a license. She faces more than five years in prison and \$15,000 in fines if convicted of all charges. Her lawyer, Nicholas Perrino, said she had no idea she was doing anything wrong. "She knows there's a need here. She absolutely loves treating the animals," said Perrino, who indicated his client may plead no contest in hopes of avoiding jail time. A jury trial is scheduled for Monday. Court documents indicate the charges were prompted by an Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board investigation.

Celebrated American designer to close business

NEW YORK (AP) — Isaac Mizrahi, a celebrated designer and one of the key members of the American fashion industry, will reportedly go out of business this week after years of financial losses. Chanel Inc., the American division of the French fashion house, had been backing the enterprise, but pulled out because of the financial drain, company executive vice president Michael Rena said. "He knew and we knew where we were heading," Rena said of Mizrahi in Friday's New York Times. "We told him there was a point beyond which we were not going to continue." Though widely considered a successor to Donna Karan or Calvin Klein as the premier American designer, Mizrahi never created a signature image with which the average shopper could identify, the Times said. Mizrahi also failed to truly launch shoe, fragrance or cheaper secondary clothing lines. While top designers tend to sell at least 70 per cent of their collections at full price, Mizrahi sold only about half his collection. "For me it's bittersweet," Mizrahi told the Times. "I don't know what it says about fashion. I don't know what it says about me. A lot of it is luck."

Please don't blow on the sculpture

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Most museums forbid patrons to touch the exhibits. How about blowing on the artwork? Guards at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art have been on their toes the past month trying to stop many from exhaling on Alexander Calder's whimsical mobiles. "We're catching 'em in the act," said Jason Mueller, the museum's gallery security supervisor. "It happens a lot. People are blowing on or fanning the mobiles. We give them a friendly reminder that it's not allowed." "Most of the time they say, 'He made these to move, and we say, 'But we have to protect them.' Busted patrons are handed a blue flyer that asks them to keep a safe distance from the fragile sculptures. Museum officials said the mobiles are supposed to move subtly with the air currents in the room. Still, some visitors have said they can't help themselves. "It's sort of irresistible," said John Riccio of Cleveland. "I had to restrain myself, and it was tough."

Doctors in Sweden operate on boy still in womb

STOCKHOLM (R) — A team of seven Swedish doctors have carried out the first open womb surgery in Europe to save a baby boy not yet born, medical authorities said Friday.

Doctors at the Astrid Lindgren hospital in Stockholm opened the woman's womb and operated on the boy's throat, which had grown together, one month before he was due to be born.

"We carried out an operation to the boy's airway. As far as I know it was the first one in Europe," surgeon Bjorn Freckner told Reuters. "It was the umbilical cord that kept the boy alive while we operated." The surgeon said the malformation of the throat, called congenital airway obstruction syndrome (CAOS), was extremely rare but would have meant cer-

tain death at birth if they had not operated.

"He would have died," Freckner said. "So we had to clear the airway before birth." A midwife discovered something was wrong with the unborn boy during an ultra-sound check. Doctors then found the baby had unusually large lungs and saw that the airway was blocked.

The surgeon cut open the woman's womb on Sept. 23 and pulled out the boy's head enough to operate for 19 minutes.

"The hardest thing was the short time we had. We had planned only one hour for the operation," he said.

Once the operation was completed the doctors pulled the boy out of the womb and cut the umbilical cord. Since the operation one week ago the boy is in a respiratory machine and is doing well.

Howard confident of victory after cliffhanger Australian campaign

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian Prime Minister John Howard expressed confidence Friday that his conservative coalition government would return to power in the weekend election after a campaign dominated by the economy and race.

Polls said the two ruling parties would be returned with a reduced majority, but Howard told a news conference: "I am feeling very at peace and satisfied that I have had an opportunity to put something to the Australian people which is important to their future."

Howard asked the public to trust the government to see them through the global economic crisis. He appealed to voters to give him a clear majority, arguing that minority government leads to instability.

"I believe the government deserves to be returned because it is better able to manage the Australian economy in these difficult international times," he said.

Most late polls said the contest was too close to call. An ACNielsen poll Thursday said the government was level-pegging the opposition with 50-50.

A Morgan poll tipped Labour, giving it 50.5 per cent to 49.5 per cent for the coalition.

But confidential polling by the major parties is reported to have confirmed the view of most commentators that the Liberal-National coalition will win a second term with a much reduced majority.

They believe it will do so with the grudging support of an electorate largely opposed to Howard's planned economic reforms — a 10 per cent goods and services tax (GST) sweetened by 13 billion Australian dollars (\$7.8 billion) in annual income tax cuts.

Labour strategists remain pessimistic about their chances of securing the national swing of about four per cent required to secure the 27 seats needed to win power. No government has been defeated after a single term since John Scullin lost for Labour during the great depression in 1932.

Howard's positive demeanour contrasted with Labour leader Kim Beazley who has all but conceded defeat.

Beazley, who has campaigned against the GST and for a \$1.5 billion job creation programme, said the election was too soon to make enough of a dent in the coalition's 44-seat majority to win.

"I'd like another week to tell you the honest truth," he told reporters in Melbourne.

A few hundred votes in key marginals could decide the result, though it may not be known immediately because polling day is on a weekend holiday and record numbers have sought postal votes that will not be opened for days.

The polls show that support for Pauline Hanson's One Nation party, which wants to cut immigration and Aboriginal funding, has slumped to seven percent and she is unlikely to win seats outside her home state of Queensland.

However, One Nation national director David Ettridge predicted One Nation would win 15 lower house and six Senate seats in its federal debut, despite being placed last on the preferential voting lists of all major parties.

Beazley warned One Nation might do better than

polling suggests, saying Australia could face a repeat of the Queensland election in which it won a quarter of the vote.

"They have made comprehensive clumps of themselves during the course of this election campaign," he said. "But they do represent a degree of protest vote."

Newspapers backed Howard in editorials which shared the view that because of his much-needed reform agenda he deserved another term after a first marked by indecision and timid leadership.

"Competent economic management demands that the coalition should be returned," said the Sydney Morning Herald in an editorial which urged the coalition to consider a change of leader regardless of the election result.

Australia's Chinese language press strongly opposed the government because of Howard's handling of the race debate inspired by Hanson.

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Before it is too late

THE ESCALATION of tension between Turkey and Syria threatens the security and stability of the Middle East region as a whole. There are long-standing differences between the two neighbours over several issues including the sharing of the waters of the Euphrates River which originates from Turkey as well as the alleged support that Damascus lends to the Kurdish Labour Party, the PKK. These two primary disputes have their historical roots in the disputed Iskenderon region in Turkey which Syria still views as part of its territory.

Military cooperation between Turkey and Israel has certainly added fuel to the crisis since Syria suspects that the military alliance is primarily directed against her. Now Ankara is saying it is considering taking countermeasures including military action, against Syria if the latter did not cease to aid and abet the PKK.

This is a dangerous development. It will not only give credence to Syria's accusation that the Israeli-Turkish cooperation is directed against it but would rally the Arabs on the side of Syria and in turn consolidate the Turkish-Israeli alliance pushing the region into more turmoil and uncertainty.

The Arabs fear that Turkey is about to launch military incursions into northern Syria similar to its pursuit of the PKK into northern Iraq, a military option that was first introduced by Israel in southern Lebanon. Unlike Iraq, crippled by sanctions and no fly zones, Syria will certainly react to any Turkish incursion into its territory.

To avoid such a scenario, differences between the two states should be quickly resolved either bilaterally or regionally. A regional meeting including the U.S. and Europe should be convened as soon as possible to try to defuse the situation before it escalates into an open war.

Turkey's troubles with the PKK have been around for several years now. Whether a state or a number of states support the Kurdish secessionist movement or not, the ultimate resolution of the conflict lies in an imaginative and visionary approach that involves finding external and internal solutions to the problem.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Fahed Fanek commented on Arafat's acceptance of a 10 per cent Israeli handover of territory along with an additional three per cent designated a nature preserve, and said that when the U.S. or Israel announce that there is a "breakthrough" on the Palestinian-Israeli peace track, it means more Palestinian concessions. A similar "breakthrough" was not making the declaration of a Palestinian state at the United Nations, the writer added. Fanek said he is aware of what he called "the power-balance confusion," the "fragile" Arab position towards the Palestinian problem and U.S. unwillingness to push Israel towards respecting its commitments. Thus, "we do not blame Arafat for trying to save what can be saved," he concluded.

Al Dustour's Yaqouh Jaber said that thanks to stubborn Israeli policies, the Middle East and North Africa Economic Conference, among the deadlocked peace process "victims," will not be held this year. Benyamin Netanyahu's policies have closed all possible avenues for achieving progress in the peace process, and as a consequence the possibility of establishing economic cooperation in the region has been closed, the writer added. Most of the region's governments are aware that the conference cannot be held because of the deadlocked peace process, and countries like Turkey, Syria, Oman and Tunisia did not show any enthusiasm to host a conference that could harm their relations with others in the region, said Jaber.

Jordanian Perspective

U.S. embassy move 'bad news'

Dr. Musa Keilani

"ISRAEL IS the only nation in the world that has been denied the right to choose its own capital." Thus spoke Jesse Helms, chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in a recent message to a Norwegian activist who is heading a group dedicated to ensuring the claim to the "whole of Jerusalem" as Israel's "eternal, indivisible capital."

Though many in this region condemned Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, they are immediately prompted to make a comparison between two annexations.

They are tempted to retort that Iraq was denied not only the right to its claimed "19th province" — Kuwait — but also given a crippling military blow when it exercised that claimed "right" to take over its neighbouring emirate in August 1990.

And if Helms and the likes of him in the U.S. Congress would argue that Kuwait was indeed not Iraq's 19th province and Baghdad was coveting the territory of another sovereign country, they need to be told that the Israeli approach to Arab East Jerusalem is no different either (just in case they did not know).

We are not challenging the world's denial of Iraq's claim to Kuwait as its 19th province; if anything we will be in the forefront of the international rejection of such claims if they were to resurface again. But American lawmakers have to accept that they should apply the same

yardstick for Iraq's claim to Kuwait and Israel's claim to Arab East Jerusalem (indeed an unlikely prospect, but they need to be told that much).

Arab East Jerusalem is Palestinian territory whose future status is subject to direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, whether the incumbent Israeli government likes those negotiations or not. Israel has no right to demand that the international community recognise its unilateral annexation of the occupied Holy City.

Israel, by virtue of its physical control of Arab East Jerusalem, may consider itself free to do what it wants in the Holy City, but that does not mean that the world accepts its claims. Call it what you will: the international impotence against Israel or the mighty Zionist influence in Washington — but regardless of all Israeli fait accomplis in Arab East Jerusalem, Israel would never be able to legitimise its occupation of the Holy City. Yes, it can prolong the dispute and adopt further unilateral decisions, but it would find itself challenged in every possible way by Palestinians and Muslims.

As far as we are concerned in Jordan, West Jerusalem is Israeli territory, and we implicitly accepted as much when His Majesty King Hussein went there to attend the funeral of his partner in peace, Yitzhak Rabin, in 1995. But it beats us why U.S. senators like Helms should try to bring about an American move — that of transferring the U.S.

embassy in Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem — at this juncture in an open recognition of Israel's claim to both West and East Jerusalem.

We do realise that Washington has given "united Jerusalem" de facto recognition as the "eternal and indivisible" capital of the state for some time now.

A plot of land has been earmarked for the new premises and the U.S. Congress swiftly allocated funds for construction. As things stand today, Washington is waiting for the right political moment to launch construction.

"The U.S. Congress has many times reaffirmed its view that the united City of Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Israel," says Helms in his letter to Kaare Kristiansen, international chairman of an organisation called "Embassy 2000" Campaign based in Oslo, Norway.

"I expect to see a U.S. embassy in Jerusalem up and running by the year 2000," he adds.

When someone as dedicated in servicing the Israeli interests as Helms believes a U.S. embassy will be in place in Jerusalem by 2000, then it is indeed bad news for all the Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims to whom the Holy City is so dear. For all they know, the Israeli lobby in Washington could persuade its faithful in Congress to press the lame-duck Clinton administration to give the green signal for the embassy move anytime — as soon as next week.



Out of Order

Rights must be fought for

Brian Brown

I RECENTLY came across a remarkable photograph in the Independent newspaper. In fact, it was so interesting that I took time out from my hectic and frantic schedule to cut it out and save it for future reference. It was a picture showing young anti-Nazi protesters running away from police who were escorting "extreme right-wing" (to say the least) marchers in Rostock, Germany. It may not sound like much, especially in this part of the world, where scenes of Israeli police chasing, beating and killing people are commonplace. Nevertheless, I have found myself grappling with several perplexing questions raised by the picture over the past few days.

My musings were mainly centred on one point: why were the police chasing the people that were protesting against the Nazis? The youth in the picture all have their faces covered to avoid identification and are wearing old, worn-out clothing. One guy has a green mohawk. I admit that they're not the best-dressed people in the world, but I don't think that is any reason to be chased by police. So then I thought,

maybe there was an error in the caption and the writer actually meant to say "German far-right police chase demonstrators."

Or perhaps the reason they were being dispersed is because these kinds of protesters can cause a little trouble at such events; fights break out, some people are hospitalised and, even worse, sometimes property is damaged. Of course, no society based on the rule of the law can tolerate such actions by hoodlums who are probably unemployed and thus have all day to think up newer and more destructive means of expressing their discontent. So in come the police to clear them out, all the while protecting fascists advocating such noble principles as death camps, racism and genocide. The lesson to be learned here is, if you're going to get into crime, forget the petty stuff and concentrate on actions that will get you into the history books. You might even get police protection.

Another matter that I devoted much thought power to was the composition of the protesters. As mentioned above, they would win no prizes for fashion.

They're not the kind of people parents want their kids to hang around with or employers want to hire. So basically we have these misfits as the only people standing up for what is supposed to be decent and right. Where are all of the "normal" people, the upstanding members of society? Apparently a rise in Nazi activity is not a matter of concern to most people.

Still, there are people who nevertheless brand such protesters "trouble-makers" or "hoodlums," despite the well-reasoned and razor-sharp arguments presented above. I'll respond with one last argument: no rights, no freedom and no justice have ever been won without fighting. When people give up the struggle to achieve a decent standard of life and eliminate ignorance, the wait for "rights" will be long indeed.

RECOMMENDED READING: 1984, by George Orwell. You would think that everyone has read this crucial book, but they haven't!

The writer is on the editorial staff at the Jordan Times.

Progress needed on all fronts

Local columnists last week discussed the Saudi Crown Prince's visit to His Majesty King Hussein, the unrest in Umm Al Fahem, foreign funding, the challenges facing the new government and Iraq's relations with its neighbours.

Reviewed by Ahmad Khatib

Al Dustour's editorial praised the Saudi Crown Prince's visit to His Majesty King Hussein in Washington, saying it proved the stable, good relations between the two countries. The relation between Jordan and Saudi Arabia is one of the basic elements of Arab unity and it supports the region's peace and stability, said the editorial. The visit was a good chance to discuss the deadlocked peace process, and the two sides agreed to do their best to achieve progress in the process, especially on the Palestinian track in order to ensure Palestinian rights in establishing their own independent state, the editorial added.

Al Ra'i's Mahmoud Rimawi reviewed the history of the Palestinian town of Umm Al Fahem, saying Israel has been seizing the city's land for a long time. Once again, the recent clashes in Umm Al Fahem revealed that when it comes to non-Jews, Israeli democracy becomes discriminative, but the recent incidents also showed a growing patriotic awareness in Arabs and their leadership, Rimawi added. The three per cent "nature preserve" is an example which shows that in the minds of traditional Zionists controlling the Israeli government there is no place for peace and this Israeli behaviour is leading the region to more struggle.

Al Dustour's Arabi Rintawi criticised what he called "exaggerated criticism of foreign funds to local studies and research in Jordan." Quality and quantity-wise Jordan is "poor" in research, and the funding received by Jordan's non-governmental organisations is little, the writer added. Those who keep criticising foreign funds are either ideologically against the Western world, or people looking for fame by making a fuss about such issues, Rintawi claimed. Some of them receive such

funds themselves, he said, and added that unfortunately both sides are harming Jordanian establishments, instead of supporting them and helping them increase their efficiency. These parties could be helpful if they, instead of criticising, called for laws to supervise and control the non-governmental organisations' administrative and financial issues. Unfortunately some people keep waffling on about implementing democracy and liberalism, while at the same time closing the avenues of deeper awareness, Rintawi said.

Al Ra'i's Tareq Masarwah said that regardless of the new government's capability of meeting Jordan's challenges, the vote of confidence was unanimous. His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, called for "dialogue and moderation," and thus the prime minister started meeting with all parliamentary groups to discuss a national action programme to earn their confidence. The writer added that the programme was not as expected, because it lacked clear and precise plans and figures. Jordanians wanted to get out of the deadlocked impasse they live in and the government will do good if it keeps up a dialogue with all national groups. A dynamic public relations scheme is required by the government to express the silent majority of the people, Masarwah said. In order to trust the government, Jordanians need to be involved in national concerns such as water issues, unemployment and investment programmes, he added.

Al Dustour's Shehadeh Abu Baqar urged Iraq to solve the Kuwaiti hostage problem to ensure good relations with neighbouring countries. He commented on the Iraqi prime minister's recent declaration that his country is looking to heal relations with the Gulf states including Kuwait. Arabs welcome such news, and hope that the announcement was meant seriously, said the writer. The Gulf war was a big mistake for Iraq itself, and Abu Baqar hoped that Iraq is convinced about the necessity of brotherly relations with its neighbours. The issue is in the hands of Iraq now.

LETTERS

An apology to foreign workers

To the editor:

AS A JORDANIAN citizen, I would like to apologise to all foreign workers in my country who were detained over the past few days. While I can understand the desire to address the problem of illegal workers in Jordan, the methods have been entirely inappropriate.

On Wednesday night, police officers detained two of my male domestic helpers, even though they presented proper papers. When their wives stood outside in the garden waiting for them, two plain-clothes police officers jumped out of an unmarked car, entered my premises, and chased them into my garden. The two women were carried off physically to the police station.

At the station, all four of my domestics were treated more like criminals than law-abiding residents of the Kingdom. Most of those detained were women. Many were dressed only in underwear because they had not even been given time to change when they were hauled from their beds. They all told similar tales of rough treatment. Some managed to secure their release, but many are still in detention.

I have always been proud that in Jordan — unlike many other countries in the region — we can live without fearing a late-night knock on the door from police. In this instance, confidence has been misplaced. The strategy has obviously backfired: illegal workers have now gone into hiding and the problem will now be harder to resolve. The

government should have first declared an amnesty.

Huzeima Nasser, Amman.

The adjusted Four Ds

To the editor:

I READ with great interest the article by Dr. Yusuf Mansour concerning tourism in our beloved Jordan, how the events in the region affect us directly, and about how our product (i.e. Jordan) positioning should take place. I, however, failed to understand the authors suggested strategy about how we should implement the Four Ds into an already existing stagnant situation concerning tourism and how to accomplish it prior to "...the end of time." As economists and consultants, we all understand the Four Ds and their presence in a perfect world, but to be more pragmatic, we need to rewrite the Ds to suit our own needs and aspirations. In a broad sense, I think that the four Ds should be the following:

Do not underestimate the powers and funding the surrounding countries have. Do not belittle an escalating situation present in an already vulnerable tourism industry in Jordan.

Do find other means to effectively position our great product other than test book scenarios. Do pool together with the surrounding countries and learn from them or teach them. Again, this is a broad sense of marketing in its pure raw form and not an anecdote to our problems in the tourism industry. Jordanians want to see action rather than words. Show the Jordanian public that there will be an influx of tourism into our

country, and why there will be such an inrush in the coming two years, but at the same time show them what will happen beyond the year 2000. The availability and abundance of hotel rooms that are under construction by multinational hotel chains is awesome but worrying. These esteemed establishments will employ and train hundreds of people to be ready for the great flow of tourism into Jordan. This will no doubt have a profound dent in the rate of unemployment that will be commendable. But what happens to these skilled workers and their respective families after the great wave, after everything returns to normal and possibly below normal (because we may have, as usual, set such a high yardstick for ourselves). A possible prognosis will be that these workers will return to the unemployment line seeking similar unavailable jobs or jobs that are menial to their training and qualifications, hence the return of unemployment.

We need to find a long range plan for our tourism industry to flourish and remain strong. In this author's opinion, this will only happen if the private and public sectors really put their hands together, push for restructuring, and place aside their qualms and personal interests for the benefit of the many and not the few. Let us get away from establishing committee after committee after committee with no end results in sight until the problems seem to fade away but really never disappear.

Ramzi F. Abu Taleb, P.O. Box 850190, Amman

West Bank roadblocks: A sometimes fatal 'humiliation' for Palestinians

By Lee Hockstader

NOT LONG before her baby stopped breathing — even before it was born on the way to the hospital — Fadwa Alam had a terrifying thought: What if the Israeli soldiers stopped her?

Impossible, she decided. "We expected them to allow us to cross the checkpoint because I was pregnant and in labour," she said, her voice a numb, low monotone as she described the ordeal. "I mean, we had no doubt they'd let us pass. The hospital's just 10 minutes past the checkpoint."

She was mistaken. As her contractions convulsed her in the back seat of the station wagon, the Israeli troops manning the roadblock just outside Hebron yelled at the relatives accompanying her and refused to let their car pass, according to an account by Mrs. Alam and her family that has not been disputed by Israeli authorities.

By the time she reached the hospital more than an hour later, after driving halfway around the city to avoid Israeli roadblocks, it was too late. Her baby daughter, born on the side of the road near a dusty village, was already dying.

To most Palestinians, Israeli roadblocks are a hassle and a humiliation, not a threat to life. Israel says its soldiers at checkpoints have standing orders to allow cars to pass in cases of humanitarian emergency — even when the authorities have declared a total closing of the occupied territories in a security alert. In Mrs. Alam's case the authorities insist that the troops did not notice that she was nine months preg-

nant. Still, Mrs. Alam's tragedy, while extreme, fits a larger pattern, according to Palestinians who encounter Israeli checkpoints regularly as well as to Arab and Israeli human rights advocates. They say checkpoints manned by Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank have become a chief irritant in Palestinian-Israeli relations.

As a regular feature of life for tens of thousands of Palestinians, they mock the assertion that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel often makes to foreign audiences — that 98 per cent of the Palestinian population lives under Palestinian civil control. In fact, Palestinian control often ends as soon as Palestinians try to go very far, human rights workers say.

"That's the big myth of Oslo" — the 1993 peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians — "that Israel no longer occupies the West Bank and Gaza," said Jessica Montell of the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem. "Most Israelis fervently want to believe that they are no longer occupiers."

"But if they want to go anywhere," she said of Palestinians, "they're going to encounter Israel."

Said Jonathan Kuttab, a prominent Palestinian human rights lawyer said: "Checkpoints have become primarily a form of harassment and of making life difficult. They're an exercise of authority and sometimes just of egotism by young kids who love to have the power to tell people 'no, you can't' and 'yes, you can.'"

Each of the more than 130,000 Palestinians who cross daily from the West Bank and Gaza Strip into Israel — usually for work — must

pass through at least one of about 30 military checkpoints. In addition, Palestinians in the West Bank encounter roadblocks when Israel orders special curfews and closings in times of tension. A special curfew was in force last month in Hebron when Mrs. Alam went into labour.

Nearly every Palestinian can recount having been hassled or abused at Israeli checkpoints, but the problem goes beyond bad blood. It is also bad for business. Since Palestinian entrepreneurs generally cannot get vehicles through the checkpoints, they are forced to hire trucks licensed in Israel at far higher prices.

"This increases our costs and creates big problems," said George Nasser, who runs a textile factory in Palestinian-controlled Bethlehem and who relies on raw materials brought from Israel. "We cannot compete."

To the Israeli security services, whose members live in constant fear of suicide bombers and terror attacks, checkpoints are a deterrent, not a matter of debate. Israel insists that its forces have clear orders to accommodate genuine humanitarian emergencies, and generally ambulances and other emergency vehicles are allowed to pass through the roadblocks.

Israeli military spokesmen acknowledge occasional departures from this policy. Nevertheless, they say, the object of roadblocks is not to win the hearts and minds of Palestinians but to win the war against terrorism.

They cite instances in which terrorists have tried to sneak past Israeli checkpoints by disguising themselves as women or claiming medical emergencies. In January, 1995 a suicide

bomber who posed as a blind man entered Israeli territory and detonated the explosives he carried near the coastal city of Netanya. Twenty-two Israelis died, nearly all of them soldiers, and 60 were injured.

"If the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) had done something to prevent terror acts against Israelis, we would not have to be in this situation at all," said Brigadier General Itzhak Eitan, military commander for the West Bank. "When you use terror, people suffer. Of course terror does not recognise who is the good guy and who is the bad guy."

In response to the death of Mrs. Alam's newborn, the Israeli Army issued a statement that sounded like an apology: The soldiers had used poor judgement, it said, acknowledging that the troops had strict orders governing humanitarian emergencies, and promising to investigate the incident. The army added parenthetically that it was impossible to ascertain whether the baby had died because of the delay in getting to the hospital.

Yet the incident, which took place Aug. 25, was not the first time an Arab child had died after being delayed en route to a hospital by Israeli troops.

Only three days earlier, a 3-month-old baby, vomiting and running a high fever, died in his mother's arms in Hebron. Shirin Hadad, the child's mother, begged Israeli soldiers to allow her to walk to a taxi stand just up the street from her house so she could go to the hospital. The soldiers refused, citing a neighbourhood curfew imposed after a Jewish settler was murdered in the city, according to Mrs. Hadad and

her father, who owns an electrical appliance store.

After nearly an hour pleading, she finally slipped away, walking through a vineyard to elude the soldiers. She felt her tiny son Qusay, the youngest of triplets, weakening in her arms. What would have been a 10-minute trip to the hospital took an hour and 40 minutes. When she finally arrived, doctors in the emergency ward could not revive the infant.

Hours later, Israeli troops again stopped Mrs. Hadad, this time on her way to bury the child in the Muslim cemetery. The family was forced to bury the baby in a private plot.

Colonel Baruch Nagor, head of Israel's civil administration in Hebron, called on Mrs. Hadad a few days later to ask about the circumstances and express the army's condolences, according to Mrs. Hadad's account, which was confirmed by army officials. The colonel offered her husband a permit to work in Israel, which he declined. But officials say they cannot find the troops or police officers who detained Mrs. Hadad the day her baby died.

Human rights advocates and military spokesmen could not think of a case in which an Israeli soldier was disciplined for his actions at a roadblock. In the few instances when punishment seemed to be a possibility, the resulting uproar — among Israeli Army officers, soldiers' parents and the media — has quickly squashed the idea.

— International Herald Tribune

Regional

Turks turn to mobsters in disgust at flawed justice system

By Susanne Gusten
Agence France Presse

"DON'T HIRE a lawyer, hire a judge," is a popular Turkish slogan for those with legal problems, reflecting the widespread disillusionment with Turkey's judiciary.

But many aggrieved citizens nowadays find that hiring a gangster is a faster and cheaper way of seeking redress for perceived injustices.

Although politicians are fond of stressing that Turkey is ruled by law, a recent poll showed that less than ten per cent of the population shared this conviction.

Court of Appeals Chief Justice Mehmet Uygun drew ovals from press and public last month when he openly admitted the shortcomings of Turkey's judiciary and called for a reform of the system.

"We do not have an independent judiciary," Uygun said in a ceremony marking the beginning of the judicial year and attended by President Suleyman Demirel as well as other political leaders.

Political pressure, corruption, case overload, and antiquated laws were among the problems Uygun cited.

Uygun is not the first legal expert to come to these conclusions. The supreme court's chief justice and the chairman of the Turkish bar association are among those who have said as much. And an Istanbul state security court judge was tried last year for similar statements — and acquitted.

Some 3.5 million cases are currently underway in Turkish courts, according to Court of Appeals Judge Naci Unver, involving ten million defendants and plaintiffs.

"This means that one out of six people in the street is currently involved in a legal struggle," Unver said.

Criminal trials drag on for an average of 191 days, according to government statistics, with some murder cases exceeding the 20 year limitation period.

In one infamous case cited by the press, the trial of a building contractor has been trailing along for 26 years.

And even when the court finally arrives at a decision, the outcome is frequently questionable. Corruption is a problem. In a scandal at Istanbul's state security court earlier this year, two judges and a prosecutor were discovered to have conspired to release a notorious drug smuggler within hours of his arrest in return for a hefty bribe.

"Judges are not paid enough to

'An ex-prime minister's husband got off with a \$8 fine for forging documents, while four children were sentenced to nine years for stealing sweets'

make a living," Uygun complained in his speech. "We are squeezed between our pocket and our conscience."

Judges and prosecutors are paid about \$500 a month, a Supreme Court Judge makes close to \$1000.

Political pressures on the courts are another frequent complaint. Political intervention is thought to be responsible for the lenient treatment of policemen accused of torture or for the sentencing of political foes such as Islamists.

Uygun appealed to politicians to refrain from meddling. "Governments should not use justice for their political benefits," he told his audience.

Antiquated laws and punishments skewed by Turkey's monster inflation have further eroded the system's credibility.

While an ex-prime minister's

husband recently got off with a fine of eight dollars for forging documents, four children were sentenced to nine years in prison last month for stealing sweets from a bakery.

"The fine for crimes against the state is 20 million Turkish lira (\$75)," Uygun said. "That's a joke."

Justice Minister Hasan Denizkurdu this month appealed to parliament to devote a ten-day session to an urgent overhaul of the judiciary.

"If we don't place the necessary emphasis on our legal system, we will end up spending much more money to combat organised crime," Denizkurdu warned.

It may well be too late. Exhausted and disillusioned by the judicial process, Turks are increasingly taking the law into their own hands or putting it into those of a

thriving sector of private enforcers.

"The system plays into the hands of bandits, extortion gangs and mafia organisations," Unver said. "Because the judiciary and the law are seen to be powerless, extra-legal forces are becoming institutionalised."

"Using illegal means, the gangs collect and deliver the rent that the landlord has a right to" but cannot obtain through legal channels, Unver explained.

The Milliyet newspaper recently quoted prices of \$90 to \$400, depending on the gang, for intimidation of debtors. Collection of debts costs a percentage commission, the paper said.

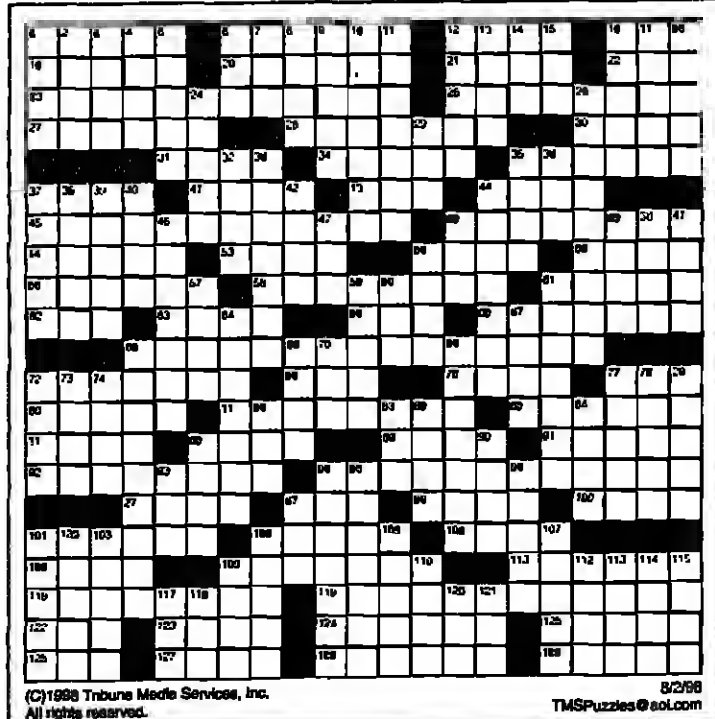
The federal police has identified 41 separate mafia gangs operating in Turkey, handling anything from rent collection to contract killings.

The Saturday Crossword

BREAKFAST FARE

By Stanley B. Whitten, Northbrook, Illinois

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| 1 Across | 101 Shakespeare's |
| 2 Across | 102 The "of Errors" |
| 3 Across | 103 Supporting |
| 4 Across | 104 Dance movement |
| 5 Across | 105 Entree |
| 6 Across | 106 Flat calisher |
| 7 Across | 107 Wanderer |
| 8 Across | 108 Breakfast menu |
| 9 Across | 109 Breakfast menu |
| 10 Across | 110 Part of the UK |
| 11 Across | 111 Butcher's cut |
| 12 Across | 112 Put up |
| 13 Across | 113 Mortise insert |
| 14 Across | 114 Cavalier base |
| 15 Across | 115 Departed |
| 16 Across | 116 Transmitter |
| 17 Across | 117 Go-ahead |
| 18 Across | 118 Down |
| 19 Across | 119 Abscond (with) |
| 20 Across | 120 Russian saint |
| 21 Across | 121 Indication |
| 22 Across | 122 "I'm told" |
| 23 Across | 123 Not the least bit |
| 24 Across | 124 In addition |
| 25 Across | 125 Shred tears |
| 26 Across | 126 Munch's merr |
| 27 Across | 127 Craps shooter |
| 28 Across | 128 Merging in haste |
| 29 Across | 129 Nerve junction |
| 30 Across | 130 Loose cattle |
| 31 Across | 131 Toothed device |
| 32 Across | 132 Part of a bow |
| 33 Across | 133 Actor Chaney |
| 34 Across | 134 Business abbr. |
| 35 Across | 135 Nude |
| 36 Across | 136 Castle or Dunne |
| 37 Across | 137 Botherome ones |
| 38 Across | 138 River nymph |
| 39 Across | 139 Acidity |
| 40 Across | 140 Round vegetable |
| 41 Across | 141 English school |
| 42 Across | 142 Know beforehand |
| 43 Across | 143 Distillation |
| 44 Across | 144 Mynah bird |
| 45 Across | 145 Aury |
| 46 Across | 146 Garlic section |
| 47 Across | 147 Exhausted |
| 48 Across | 148 Bouncing quickly |
| 49 Across | 149 Stable female |
| 50 Across | 150 Cat in boots |
| 51 Across | 151 Snow abode |
| 52 Across | 152 Small valleys |
| 53 Across | 153 Face-to-face |
| 54 Across | 154 Change parties |
| 55 Across | 155 Today's LPs |
| 56 Across | 156 Fabray, familiarly |
| 57 Across | 157 Rustic hotels |
| 58 Across | 158 Pink baby? |
| 59 Across | 159 Individualities |
| 60 Across | 160 Way, abbr. |
| 61 Across | 161 Not up to snuff |
| 62 Across | 162 Female deer |
| 63 Across | 163 Hey, abbr. |
| 64 Across | 164 La Scala offering |
| 65 Across | 165 Spanish Mrs. |



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TMSpuzzles@aol.com

Tomb of Christ collapsing under its own weight

By James Drummond
Agence France Presse

THE BUILDING which many Christians believe houses the Tomb of Christ is collapsing under its own weight, according to a husband and wife team who are experts on the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

The aedicule — or little temple — which stands beneath a large enormous dome in the centre of the church is still supported by steel scaffolding which was put up by the British mandatory authorities in 1947.

But the east front of the small structure, which thousands of pilgrims enter to pray at the site where Christians believe Jesus was buried and rose again after his resurrection, is unsupported and is sagging badly.

"It's just a new outer skin. There's this enormous heavy weight on top. The outer cladding is simply being pushed out by the weight," Berna Biddle, who has surveyed every stone of the aedicule, told AFP.

The walls of the current structure, which is less than 200 years old, are constructed without mortar. A thin outer skin contains other earlier structures and bears the enormous weight of two domes and a balustrade.

"The communities all know this. They are very anxious to repair it," added Martin Biddle, professor of medieval archaeology at Britain's Oxford University and the author of a forthcoming book on the church.

Plans to restore the aedicule, along with the floor and electrical systems of the church, are being held up by the illness of one of the church leaders who decide on restoration work in the building.

The Greek Orthodox patriarch of Jerusalem, who along with the Armenian and Latin (Roman Catholic) leaders has a vote in deciding on maintenance, is seriously ill in Athens.

The technical committee of the Holy Sepulchre, which has done much to restore other parts of the church in recent years, has not met for months, one of its members said.

"No decision (on restoration) has been taken yet," Father Prodromo,

the representative of the Franciscan community on the technical committee, said.

"There is a programme but there is no decision. This is due to the illness of the Greek Orthodox patriarch who is in Greece," he said.

But Martin Biddle was optimistic that an agreement will be reached.

"There's been a long tradition of coming to agreements and executing them," he said.

"When I first saw this church in 1957 this (the space under the dome) was a forest of enormous timber shoring going right up the building," Biddle said in the now restored rounds.

"You only have to stand in there (the rounds) today and contemplate the fact that the columns, the walls and the dome were all restored in the 1970s and 1980s," he said.

The church has suffered much in the 1,700 years since it was built by Constantine the Great.

The current aedicule was built by the Greek Orthodox community after it was destroyed in a disastrous fire in 1808 which caused the overhead dome to collapse.

An earthquake in 1927 also threatened the entire building but the then 100-year-old aedicule survived.

It is an earthquake which might well do for the structure again according to Berna Biddle.

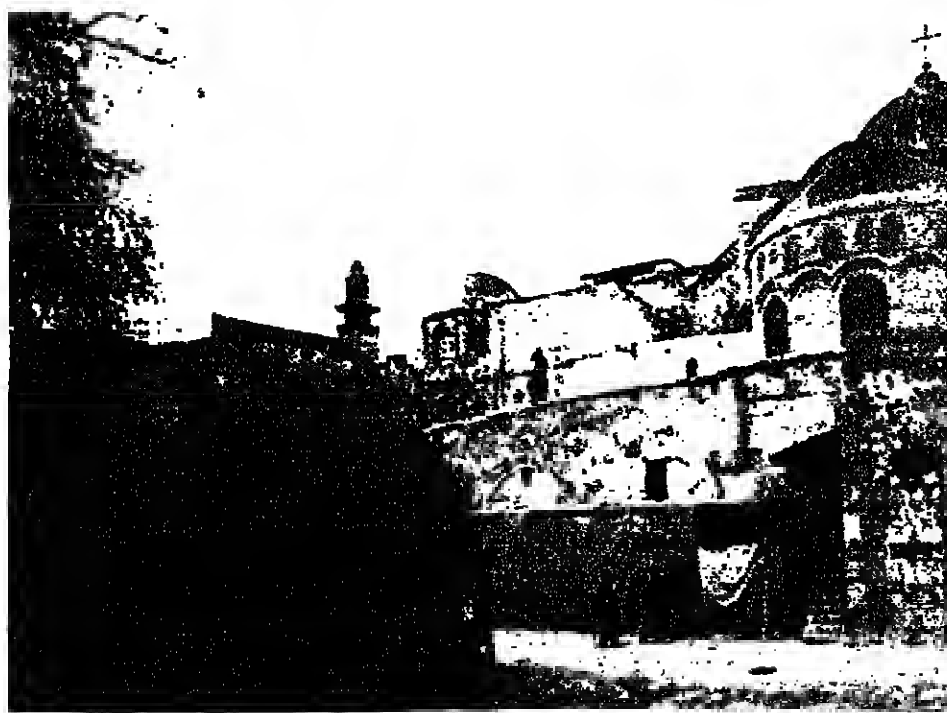
A tremor measuring six on the Richter scale hit Jerusalem in November 1997.

"It would be as well to have it (aedicule) repaired before the next one," she said.

Five churches — the Coptic, Armenian, Greek Orthodox, Latin (Roman Catholic) and Syrian — control different areas inside the church — while a sixth, the Ethiopian, occupies a former Crusader cloister on the roof above the eastern end of the church.

Traditionally, the chapels which the different rites control have been jealously guarded.

When different rites disagree over an area, the civil power, Israel since 1967, is allowed to step in to undertake any repairs under the terms of the status quo settlement of 1852. Indeed the Israeli authorities have recently stepped in to pay for repairs to three arches outside a small chapel at the west end of the church disputed by the Armenians and the Syrians.



The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem (file photo)

Clinton promises aggressive leadership to avert global recession

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton Friday spelled out in stark terms the gravity of the financial crisis sweeping the world economy and promised aggressive U.S. leadership to avert global recession.

In a White House statement to journalists, Clinton said the United States "must move aggressively" in a fast-changing crisis and called on world economic leaders to consider a new mechanism — anchored in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) — to help contain global financial turbulence.

He stressed the strengths of the U.S. economy which had produced a record budget surplus, while keeping unemployment low and wages rising.

But he said all that could be swept away by "the most serious financial challenge in 50 years."

"About a quarter of the world is and has been in recession, about a quarter of the world is in a period of very low growth. The rest of us are growing," he said.

"We don't have to have a worldwide recession if those of us that enjoy growth will take the initiative and move now. But we just — we cannot afford to dally around here," Clinton added.

He said the United States "must move more aggressively to lead in the global economy."

"Our future prosperity depends upon whether we can work with others to restore confidence, to manage change and to stabilize the financial system," he said.

"We know we are going into an unprecedented time. This country has got to lead. We've got to be aggressive. We've got to stay on the balls of our feet," the U.S. president stressed.

"We've got to be aware that this thing is changing every day. We can help a great deal to modify the difficulties, to move the world back toward growth, and to keep our own prosperity

going," Clinton asserted.

Clinton delivered a stinging rebuke to Congress, denouncing its failure to approve increased funding for the IMF as "inexcusable."

"Congress cannot afford to delay approving IMF funding another day," the president said. "Every day Congress delays increases our vulnerability to crisis, decreases confidence in global markets and undermines our prospects," he emphasized.

Clinton has asked Congress for \$18 billion to help shore up the resources of the International Monetary Fund, which have sunk to dangerously low levels as the food grapples with the near-collapse of economies in south East Asia and Russia.

"If America is to continue to grow, we must support the IMF. If America is to continue to grow, we must lead," he said. "We cannot lead if we won't even pay our fair share to the International Monetary Fund."

The administration request has cleared the Senate but has stalled in the House of Representatives, where conservative Republicans have faulted the IMF for what they say has been its secrecy.

They have likewise accused the fund of squandering its resources bailing out imprudent Western bankers and investors.

Clinton said he would attend a meeting here Monday of top finance officials from 22 developed and emerging economies to debate measures to restore confidence to the international financial system.

He said his participation would "underscore the urgency of quick action" in the face of global economic stagnation and global market sell-offs.

Among steps he recommended to respond to the turmoil, Clinton said a "new mechanism" was needed.

"First we must act to strengthen the international financial community's capacity to limit the con-

tion," he said.

He said U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan were to

discuss with IMF and Group of Seven colleagues "whether best to design a new mechanism anchored in the IMF to provide con-

tingent finance to help countries ward off global financial contagion."

"This step, combined with full funding for the IMF,

would give the international community a powerful new tool to help reduce the risk posed by the current financial crisis," Clinton added.

He also called on the World Bank and other multilateral lending organizations to develop "emergency" funding channels

and to find innovative ways to encourage private sector lending to emerging markets while expanding their own lending.



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT UNITED NATIONS CENTER FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT) IN JORDAN AMMAN OFFICE

Invites interested individuals to submit applications for the position of
National Consultant for monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

The United Nations Center for Human Settlements (Habitat) is responsible for the formulation and implementation of the human settlements programme of the United Nations. Habitat serves as a think tank within the United Nations System, to assist governments in policy and strategy formulation; to improve the living conditions of people to their communities by expanding access to adequate shelter, infrastructure and services for all; and to strengthen the capacity of national governments and local authorities to mobilize public and private resources to improve urban environmental conditions and productivity. Habitat is also the overall coordinator within the United Nations family for the implementation of Habitat Agenda which is the Global Plan of Action adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul 4-16 June 1996.

Duties and Responsibilities

The consultancy is of one year's duration and includes the following Responsibilities:

- 1) provide expert advice on all matters relating to the Habitat Agenda as the global plan of action to develop human settlements and improved living environment;
- 2) assist in the ongoing efforts to improve coordination between the central government, local authorities, NGOs and other representatives of civil society, at both the policy and programming levels;
- 3) identify possibilities for resource mobilization, areas for technical assistance and capacity building, for the purposes of development of human settlements in the country;
- 4) formulate concept papers and project proposals for potential projects that fall within the Habitat mandate;
- 5) formulate a plan of action for capacity building in matters relating to urban indicators, best practices, local observatories, and make proposals for the training of local staff, NGO's women associations and other representatives of civil society;
- 6) monitor and evaluate the national plan of action on human settlements and improved living environment and report regularly on the progress of implementation, at the central and local levels.

Qualifications and Experience Required

- A post-graduate university degree, preferably in urban studies or in social sciences or in a technical discipline relevant to human settlements development.
- At least five years of relevant professional experience in government service, in academic institutions, in non-governmental organizations and/or in community-based development/social work;
- Full oral proficiency in Arabic and English and excellent drafting /conceptualization skills in both languages.
- Highly developed inter-cultural and inter-personal skills that enable the applicant to (a) be fully at ease among and work closely with people of different cultures, ethnic groups, political or religious orientations (b) participate effectively in team work, work and (c) be highly sensitive to and supportive of gender concerns.
- Other qualification that will be considered important extra assets are (a) computer literacy, particularly knowledge and routine use of word processing and other software applications (such as Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, and Power Point), (b) strong public presentation and communication skills, and knowledge of a third United Nations language.

Candidates are requested to submit their application (including a complete curriculum vitae) no later than 18 October 1998 in an envelope marked "Habitat Agenda". Short-listed candidates will be expected to take a written test and appear before an interview panel.

All applications should be received in the Habitat Office, P.O.Box 55286, Amman 11180 or delivered by hand to the receptionist in the UN Building, Obada Ibn Al-Samit Street, Shmeisani, Amman. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

REUTERS • REUTERS •

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.6360	0.8864	1.3484	133.98	1.5531	1618.80	1.8432	5.4833
DE Mark	0.6112	-	0.3682	0.8233	82.02	0.9496	987.90	1.1271	3.3528
GB Sterling	1.7052	2.7906	-	2.2968	228.92	2.6483	2756.90	3.1447	9.3650
CH Franc	0.7427	1.2138	0.4348	-	99.60	1.1537	1199.44	136.81	4.0701
JP Yen	0.0076	1.2187	0.4368	1.0030	-	1.1580	12.05	137.47	4.0869
CA Dollar	0.6439	1.1164	0.3900	0.9245	1.18	-	1102.44	1.2573	3.7399
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0111	0.3826	0.8833	1207.00	0.9610	-	11.41	3.3906
NL Guilder	0.5425	88.69	0.3175	72.91	72.66	0.8414	876.26	-	2.9688
FR Franc	0.1824	0.2982	0.1069	24.5489	24.42	0.2834	33.84	33.6400	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7090	3.7507	0.3770	3.6402	0.3028	3.6728	1503.00	3.3981
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	8.2901	0.5317	5.1343	0.4271	5.1803	2119.89	4.7827
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1890	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0807	0.98	400.73	0.9080
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8807	9.9493	-	9.56	0.8032	9.74	3986.95	0.0139
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1943	1.0304	1.0304	-	0.0832	1.01	412.89	0.9335
Kuwait Dinar	3.3025	2.3416	12.3887	1.2450	12.02	-	12.13	4963.67	0.9336
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0212	0.1026	0.9911	0.0824	-	409.22	0.9252
Lebanese/1000	0.67	0.4717	2.4955	0.2608	2.4220	0.2015	2.4436	-	2.2608
Egyptian	0.2943	0.2086	1.1038	0.1109	1.0713	0.0891	1.0809	442.31	-

Energy		
Oil	Last	Review
Brent	0.00	0.00
W. Texas	15.49	16.16
Bonny	0.00	0.00
Dubai	13.90	14.45
UL Gas	145.00	147.00

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4361	0.15634	0.35935	35.759
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.44534	0.16965	0.36697	36.5177
KW Dinar	3.3025	5.40249	1.93648	4.45038	442.87
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.33839	1.65545	3.57526	355.745
CY Pound	2.0582	3.3649	1.206	2.7694	275.784

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	300.1	300.6
Silver (oz's)	5.27	5.3
Platinum (oz's)	349	351
Al (3 Months)	1340	1341
CU (3 Months)	1622	1624
Zinc (3 Months)	891	992
Lead (3 Months)	518	519
Ni (3 Months)	4090	4095

Libor Fixing					
Cncy	Month	-1-	-3-	-6-	-1-
USD	5.3750	5.3125	5.1250	4.9063	
GBP	7.4609	7.3164	7.1250	6.8516	
JPY	0.4180	0.4336	0.4648	0.5039	
DEM	3.5000	3.5628	3.5508	3.5156	
FRF	3.5000	1.4258	1.4609	1.5313	
CHF	1.2461	3.5547	3.5430	3.5332	
ITL	4.9570	4.7640	4.2290		

Main Equity Indices							
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls
New York	DOW JONES	0	0	0	0	0	7632.63
New York	S&P 500	0	0	0	0	0	986.39
London	FT-SE 100	4794.4	-113.8	-2.32	4897.3	4724.2	4908.2
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	13223.69	26.57	0.2	13320.2	12973.2	13197.1
Paris	CAC 40	2979.63	-58.38	-1.92	3036.62	2881.21	3038.01
Frankfurt	DAX	4023.32	-203.17	-4.81	4217.9	3989.6	4226.49

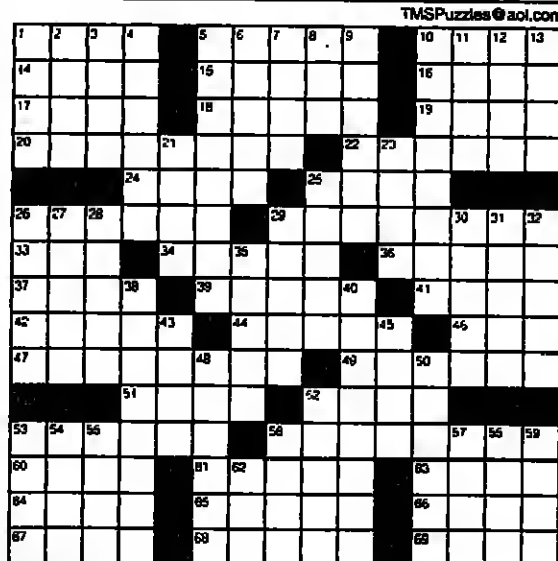
Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	103.42	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1913	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	218	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	104	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	24.2	Spot
Tea (stg/kg)	125	Spot
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	415	Spot

* JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.2005	1.2066
DE Mark	0.4231	0.4252
CH Franc	0.5119	0.5145
FR Franc	0.1262	0.1288
JP Yen	0.5174	0.52
NL Guilder	0.3752	0.3771
IT Lira	0.4281	0.4302

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS
- 1 Tilo's last name
 - 5 Syrup source
 - 10 False god
 - 14 New Jersey or California city
 - 15 French city
 - 16 Moses' mount
 - 17 Landed
 - 18 Cook food by heat
 - 19 Impartial
 - 20 4-time U.S. Open winner
 - 22 Levelled
 - 24 Kuwaiti leader
 - 25 Close at hand
 - 26 Rabbit colony
 - 29 Winner of 80+ PGA events
 - 33 Flightless bird
 - 34 Unclothed
 - 36 Castle feature
 - 37 "Fernando" singers
 - 39 Lawful slang
 - 41 Vaccines
 - 42 Hal attachments
 - 44 Navigational system
 - 46 Freedom, briefly
 - 47 U.S. Open winner from South Africa
 - 49 Fine cotton threads
 - 51 TV award
 - 52 Dull
 - 53 Herb for felines
 - 55 Senior-four golfer
 - 60 Pigmented part of the eye
 - 61 Lucky people?
 - 63 Bigfoot's shoe size
 - 64 Finest
 - 65 Lothario's cousin?
 - 66 Dr. Zhivago's beloved
 - 67 Discomfort
 - 68 Zetopex and Jennings
 - 69 Hill the dirt



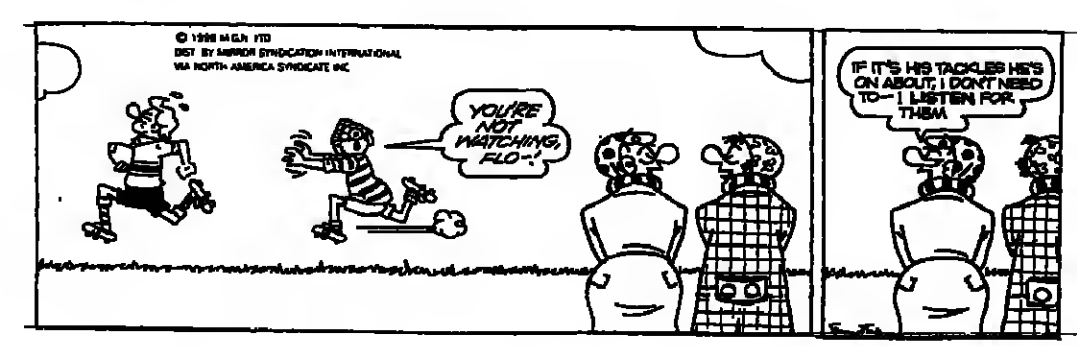
By Bernice Gordon Philadelphia, PA

- DOWN
- 2 Part to play
 - 3 Norse deity
 - 4 Stringed instrument
 - 5 On the edge
 - 6 Boisterously
 - 7 Outline
 - 8 Paul of guitars
 - 9 Value
 - 10 Flery pits
 - 11 Collage bigwig
 - 12 Theatrical award
 - 13 Notleman
 - 21 Agony
 - 23 Immense
 - 25 Low point
 - 26 Intermesh
 - 27 Dark yellow
 - 28 Tennis player
 - 29 Some lilies
 - 30 "The Seven Year Itch" star
 - 31 Eagle's home
 - 32 Olive
 - 35 Gene or Grace
 - 38 Strange
 - 40 Fox hunt cries
 - 43 Partial (prof.)
 - 45 Long and
 - 46 Peeples
 - 48 Magistrate's purview
 - 50 Police badge
 - 52 Swiss city
 - 53 Castro's country
 - 54 With, in 15A
 - 55 Pianist John
 - 56 Guitant
 - 57 Hendrix
 - 58 Toothed device
 - 59 Architect
 - 59 Saarian
 - 62 CD add-on?

Peanuts



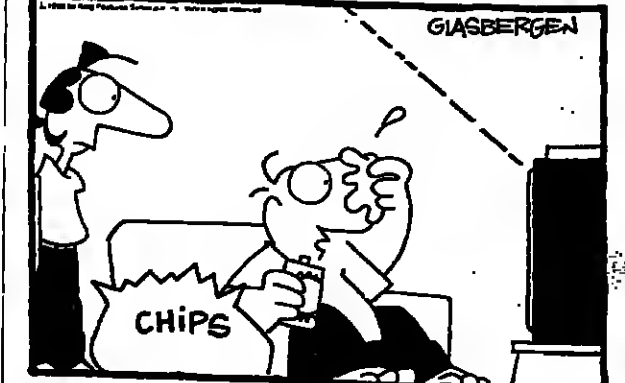
Andy Capp



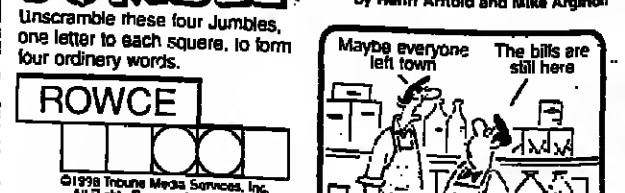
Mutt'n' Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: DINER SWAMP TANDEM PSYCHE to do — "SPARE" THEM

easy style
Whatever your
OUTLOOK
LOOKOUT

DAJANI
Jewellers
Amra Forum
Hotel Shops,
Phone: 5527118
Amman

Busin
Broker: L
AFM in S
By Tareq Al-Sayid
Foros: Glo
Many villas and
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rent and sale
Furnished & Unfurnished
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Broker: Lack of demand keeps AFM in some sort of recession

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — The decline in the share price of the Arab Bank, the Kingdom's largest financial institution, caused a record drop in the Amman Financial Market's (AFM) price index, a broker said Friday.

But despite the drop, the stock market's total turnover recorded a slight improvement compared to the previous week's figures, said Nabeq Nageeb.

Nageeb said the decline in the Arab Bank share price from JD221 to 216.5 was the "principal reason" for the retreat of the stock market's general price index.

The AFM's weekly bulletin showed the price index down by 2.20 points to 171.2 points from 173.45 points at the end of the previous week.

The bulletin also showed that the banking sector's index declined by five points while the industrial sector declined by 0.19 points and the insurance sector by 0.23 points.

Last week's turnover amounted to JD4.5 million

compared to JD4.0 million, a 12.5 per cent increase, the bulletin said. The number of shares that were traded totalled 3.08 million and the average daily turnover amounted to JD900,000.

"A sort of recession still dominates the market due to lack of demand, especially in the banking and industrial sectors," Nageeb said.

"The market witnessed a high supply of shares which did not attract a similar volume of demand," he added.

The broker said that foreign portfolios are still reluctant to invest in the stock exchange and many of them resort to selling some of their holdings at the AFM. "Even the local demand is still not encouraging," he added.

"If no market change occurs in the market, the current gloomy activities will continue to prevail. If there is no improvement in the conditions at the AFM, then the situation will either remain the same or decline further," Nageeb told the Jordan Times.

Out of the 88 firms that changed hands in the market, 25 firms recorded

increase in their prices, 40 companies registered declines while 23 firms witnessed no change in their prices.

The banking sector ranked first with a turnover amounting to JD2.02 million, or 45 per cent, followed by the industrial sector with JD1.2 million, 27.5 per cent, the services sector with JD900,000, 20 per cent, and finally the insurance sector with JD340,000, or 7.5 per cent.

Trading in the banking sector focused on the Arab and Housing banks with a turnover amounting to JD1.3 million and JD305,974 respectively.

The cement and potash companies attracted the investors in the industrial sector, with a turnover amounting to JD210,239 and JD135,124 respectively.

The turnover in the organised market amounted to JD3.4 million while the parallel market was only JD1.06 million, mostly in trading the shares of the Jordan International Insurance Company and Zira for Investment.

Soros: Global crises far from over

WASHINGTON (R) — International financier George Soros said Russia's economic crisis would worsen, Brazil was on the brink, and the world's lender of last resort — the International Monetary Fund — was ill-equipped to fend off a global meltdown.

Painting a bleak picture of the future for the world economy, Soros told U.S. lawmakers that financial crises gripping Asia and Russia had already spread to Latin America, where panic was setting in, and that Malaysia's foreign currency controls could setback Asia's recovery.

The multibillionaire philanthropist, who chairs Soros Fund Management, warned that the global capitalist system was coming undone.

He called on the U.S. Congress to give \$18 billion to the IMF to replenish the lending agency's reserves, drained by bailouts for Russia and three crisis-hit Asian states.

But Soros told the House Banking Committee that even a fully funded IMF could not end the market turmoil.

"Replenishing the capital of the IMF will not be sufficient to resolve the global financial crisis," he emphasised.

The IMF engineered multibillion-dollar bailouts last year for Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand to avert the region's economic collapse. In July the fund assembled a nearly

\$23 billion rescue package for Russia.

But market confidence evaporated, Russia devalued the rouble and defaulted on some foreign debt, and Russian President Boris Yeltsin's surprise decision to ditch his brusque prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, did nothing to reassure frightened investors.

Soros said the meltdown in Russia had exposed new weaknesses in the international banking system.

"A global credit crunch is in the making," he told the committee. "The global capitalist system which has been responsible for the remarkable prosperity of this country in the last decade is coming apart at the seams."

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET															
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN															
TELEPHONE: 607111 / 607119															
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (26/09/1998 - 30/09/1998)															
WEEKLY REPORT															
DURING THE LAST 5 WEEKS		COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE MARKET PRICE	TURNOVER	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
HIGH	LOW														
225,000	215,500	ARAB BANK	37.7	.92	149	6100	1335843	211.00	213.00	212.00	216.50	- 4.50	218.991	.069	5
1,660	1,630	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	12.7	4.49	30	11957	19041	1.61	1.63	1.56	1.56	-.07	1.593	.028	5
2,990	2,710	CARPO AMMAN BANK	11.8	2.61	6	800	2250	2.71	2.85	2.60	2.85	+.14	2.813	.004	1
1,040	1,000	BANK OF JORDAN	-	0.00	13	40832	41,499	1.01	1.02	1.01	1.02	+.01	1.019	.194	3
.980	.940	H.D. EAST INV. BK.	59.1	0.00	21	19950	16706	.94	.95	.90	.90	-.04	.906	.400	4
1,590	1,580	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	11.1	4.56	6	16375	25808	1.58	1.59	1.58	1.58	-.01	1.581	.068	2
3,140	2,790	THE HOUSING BK.	18.4	3.45	120	105849	105974	2.89	2.92	2.80	2.90	+.01	2.891	.106	5
1,800	1,740	JOR. KAWAT BANK	.8	0.00	21	8616	15449	1.79	1.80	1.77	1.80	+.01	1.793	.057	4
.690	.640	JOR. GULF BANK	-	0.00	46	114200	64719	.64	.65	.64	.65	+.01	.647	.571	5
1,750	1,690	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.4	0.00	48	42929	74181	1.10	1.17	1.12	1.12	-.02	1.133	.195	5
1,000	.970	UNION RE. SAV. INV.	151.5	0.00	6	9350	8891	1.00	1.00	.95	.95	-.05	.951	.047	4
1,490	1,430	JOR. INV. FIN. BANK	21.8	3.52	6	3150	4624	1.48	1.49	1.42	1.42	-.04	1.468	.016	3
.770	.720	BRIT. AL-HAL (BRITWA)	3.7	0.00	10	2230	1612	.72	.76	.71	.76	+.04	.732	.312	3
.720	.660	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	3079.7	0.00	36	82701	56128	.69	.69	.67	.67	-.02	.681	.827	5
BANKS SECTOR															
INDEX NUMBER : 284.19 CHANGE : + 1.733															
2,750	2,550	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	7.4	9.43	14	13250	75042	2.63	2.68	2.56	2.65	+.02	2.645	.602	5
1,100	1,100	HOLE LAND INSUR.	8.2	0.00	4	850	935	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	-.01	1.100	.042	3
1,990	1,940	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	9.3	0.00	10	14234	20897	1.99	1.99	1.94	1.94	-.05	1.974	.539	4
INSURANCE SECTOR															
INDEX NUMBER : 126.18 CHANGE : - 0.187															
1,510	1,430	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.7	5.54	35	11321	16594	1.46	1.49	1.45	1.49	+.03	1.466	.057	4
2,130	1,930	IRABO ELECTRICITY	9.9	4.25	8	750	1246	1.93	1.85	1.60	1.60	-.23	1.688	.025	4
4,510	4,350	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	18.9	3.26	11	74037	37342	4.50	4.60	4.35	4.60	+.10	4.503	.617	3
.800	.740	HATL. PORTFOLIO	28.7	0.00	28	11800	12817	.74	.74	.71	.72	-.02	.720	.356	4
.750	.490	REAL ESTATE INV.	14.1	0.00	3	1531	1111	.73	.73	.72	.72	-.01	.723	.033	3
.700	.720	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	-	0.00	14	7000	2045	.29	.30	.38	.38	+.01	.293	.206	2
5,600	5,600	ALARA	8.4	1.27	3	200	1099	5.40	5.50	5.47	5.50	-.10	5.495	.007	3
1,110	1,090	H.D. EAST HOTELS	209.0	0.00	3	354	388	1.09	1.09	1.09	1.09	-.01	1.090	.006	2
1,970	1,940	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.4	2.11	21	22252	43528	1.95	1.95	1.90	1.90	-.05	1.911	.310	5
.900	.890	SARAA EDUCATION	20.8	0.00	6	4800	4252	.89	.90	.88	.90	+.01	.886	.081	3
1,190	1,100	UNIFICO CO.	5.0	9.45	48	19440	22193	1.13	1.15	1.12	1.14	+.01	1.142	.389	5
.510	.510	UNION LAND DEV.	-	0.00	7	5100	2422	.51	.53	.51	.52	+.01	.514	.103	3
SERVICES SECTOR															
INDEX NUMBER : 106.48 CHANGE : + 0.387															
1,910	1,880	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	11.1	5.85	40	110180	210239	1.90	1.90	1.87	1.88	-.02	1.898	.183	5
1,600	1,490	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	15.4	0.00	6	9965	14456	1.49	1.49	1.44	1.45	-.04	1.451	.023	4
4,200	3,850	ARAB PETROL CO.	19.0	5.18	7	32750	135124	3.85	4.15	3.84	3.84	-.01	4.126	.039	2
10,450	10,500	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	10.3	8.35	40	1938	41581	10.50	10.70	10.45	10.65	+.15	10.559	.063	5
4,900	4,900	JORDAN TANNING	7.8	8.25	4	326	1581	4.90	4.85	4.85	4.85	-.05	4.850	.033	2
1,130	1,000	WOODEN INDUSTRIES	11.3	2.14	2	100	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-.01	1.000	.007	1
1,150	1,110	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AC.	67.9	0.00	20	6194	7035	1.13	1.15	1.13	1.15	+.02	1.136	.124	5
6,050	5,500	JOR. WOODST. MILLS	7.5	3.51	1	100	570	5.70	5.70	5.70	5.70	-.01	5.700	.001	1
2,740	2,410	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	1.3	2.81	99	15711	95497	2.49	2.41	2.62	2.65	+.04	2.674	.198	5
1,160	1,120	JOR. CHEM. IND.	4.6	9.47	14	7570	8579	1.12	1.11	1.06	1.06	-.06	1.079	.159	5
1,110	1,010	JOR. FIBRE MANUFACT.	8.9	9.26	9	2111	2507	1.09	1.09	1.08	1.08	-.01	1.085	.071	2
6,950	6,850	ARAB CHEM. OUTRICH.	7.6	7.30	3	941	6463	6.95	6.90	6.85	6.85	-.10	6.854	.142	3
5,490	5,380	DAR ALDHAH QV. INV.	6.5	6.51	8	12400	66712	5.38	5.38	5.38	5.38	-.01	5.380	.207	2
1,750	1,700	ARAB ALUM. IND.	13.3	13.89	21	7107	12911	1.74	1.80	1.73	1.80	+.06	1.770	.122	4
.420	.290	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	13.2	0.00	50	51450	20994	.39	.40	.39	.39	-.01	.393	1.620	5
.430	.170	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	-	0.00	18	2195	2195	.39	.45	.40	.41	+.02	.426	.129	5
.370	.100	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	-	0.00	44	88600	27181	.31	.33	.30	.30	-.01	.314	2.215	5
.370	.350	JOR. DOCKHOOD INDUS.	-	0.00	5	2100	803	.35	.35	.34	.35	-.01	.349	.077	2
.970	.830	UNIV. CHEM. INDUS.	9.6	8.51	7	1000	948	.85	.95	.94	.94	-.01	.948	.067	3
.160	.700	NATL. CABLE WIRE. MANF.	33.3	0.00	7	2150	1510	.72	.71	.70	.71	+.01	.702	.029	2
.450	.390	JOR. SULPHO-CHEM.	7.4	0.00	25	24400	9478	.39	.41	.39	.39	-.01	.397	.542	4
1,280	1,250	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	13.8	4.80	17	6000	7464	1.25	1.26	1.24	1.25	-.01	1.244	.120	4
.480	.430	KAMTHER INVEST.	-	0.00	2	500	203	.43	.41	.40	.40	-.03	.406	.025	2
.370	.350	UNIV. FORM. INDUS.	10.4	9.21	59	55730	36492	.64	.69	.64	.65	-.01	.658	.929	5
.530	.480	JOR. INDUS. SERVICES	9.00	0.00	21	12450	6280	.51	.51	.48	.51	-.03	.507	.156	5
1,240	1,240	NATL. CHLORINE	8.6	8.13	9	9150	11286	1.24	1.24	1.23	1.23	-.01	1.233	.127	4
.680	.600	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	8.9	15.87	10	16300	10523	.63	.66	.63	.63	-.01	.644	.204	4
1,260	1,180	EL-JAY READY WEAR	45.0	0.00	24	11261	14223	1.26	1.28	1.25	1.28	+.02	1.263	.150	5
1,080	.910	INTL. TOBACCO	7.3	5.72	56	171610	125408	1.02	1.05	1.02	1.02	-.01	1.031	1.013	5
1,750	.980	ORIENTAL CH. & VEG.	10.0	0.00	1	800	728	.93	.91	.91	.91	-.02	.910	.014	2
.880	.790	JORDAN STEEL	9.5	8.24	12	12705	10825	.79	.85	.84	.85	+.01	.857	.007	2
.730	.440	NAT. ALUMINIUM	33.7	0.00	71	65189	44530	.68	.70	.67	.68	-.01	.683	.724	5
.580	.540	H.D. EAST COMPLEX	9.8	0.00	10	7050	3809	.54	.55	.54	.54	-.01	.540	.032	4
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR															
INDEX NUMBER : 77.59 CHANGE : - 0.347															
GRAND TOTAL															
INDEX NUMBER : 171.25 CHANGE : - 1.237															
NO. OF DAYS TRADED : 5															
DAILY AVERAGE OF TRADING VOLUME : 30 607,300															
DAILY AVERAGE OF TRADED SHARES : 280,000															
DAILY AVERAGE OF CONTRACTS : 300															

Tests on Parma players reveal abnormal blood count

BOLOGNA (AFP) — Tests taken from 24 Parma players in July have revealed an abnormally high level of red blood cells, a judicial source revealed here Friday.

This latest revelation comes at a time when Italian sport is reeling from a series of alleged doping cover-ups and the sacking of Mario Pescante as president of the ruling national Olympic committee (CONI).

The failed tests involve the entire Parma team bar Fabio Cannavaro.

They were unearthed by a police search ordered by Bologna's public

prosecutor Giovanni Spinosa, who has been carrying out an investigation into the illegal use of drugs in sport for the last two years.

According to the ANSA news agency in two cases players red blood cells were at an alarmingly high level.

Increased numbers of oxygen-carrying red blood cells can enhance a sportsman's performance. Products such as EPO are used to artificially increase their rate.

The normal level of red blood cells in the body is between 42 per cent and 52 per cent. Cyclists are automatically

ejected from a competition if their rate is discovered to be higher than the 50 per cent threshold for their own safety.

Parma's reserve goal keeper, Alessandro Nista, was tested at 63 per cent on July 27.

Revelations of this sort have been occurring on an almost daily basis in Italy, with the country's top drugs testing laboratory at Acqua Acetosa in the eye of the storm since it was revealed four weeks ago that only a fraction of the 4,000 samples sent there by football clubs were tested for steroids.

Hagi asked to return

BUCHAREST (AFP) — Veteran Gheorghe Hagi is under pressure from Romania's football federation (FRF) to make an international comeback for the next round of European championship qualifiers.

Hagi announced he was standing down from the national team after this summer's World Cup.

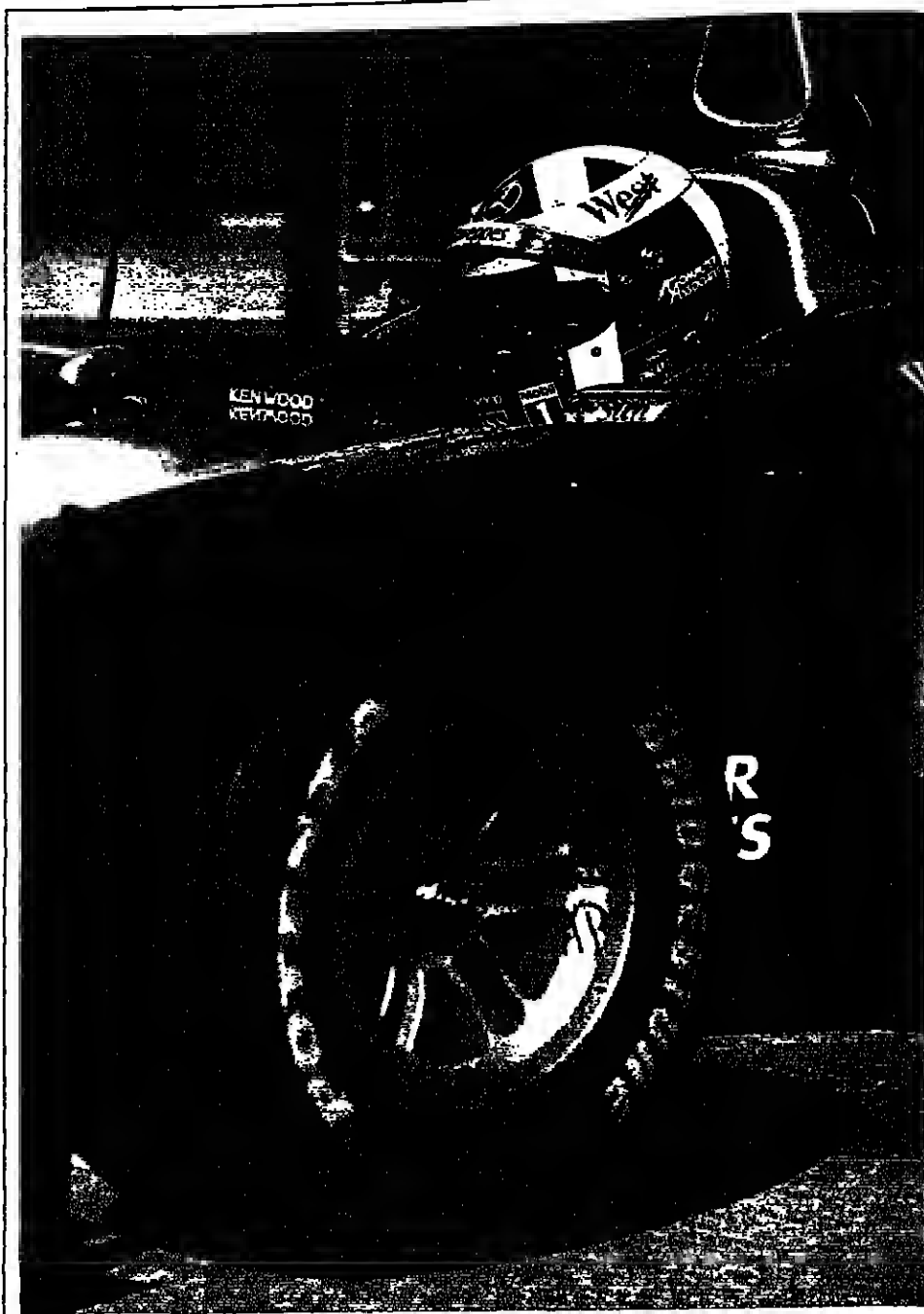
But the veteran 34-year-old showed he was no back number when starring in his club Galatasaray's 2-1 win over Atletico Bilbao in the Champions League, scoring the winning goal in the dying seconds of Wednesday's game.

"He's a player who can turn a match all by himself," FRF president Mircea Sandu said.

"I've contacted Hagi to ask him to return to the national side at least for the Euro 2000 qualifiers."

Sandu's sentiments were shared by Romania's press.

"The team needs you!", "Come back, we're worried about the national side," and "Hagi's return will please millions of Romanian fans," being just three of the headlines that will leave the wily midfielder general in little doubt as to what is expected of him.



Scotland's David Coulthard of the McLaren-Mercedes Formula-One team leaves the pits during test training at Barcelona's Montmelo circuit (AP Photo)

Injury forces Hingis to quit against Schnyder

MUNICH (AFP) — Martina Hingis was forced to retire with a left thigh injury late in the third set of her semi-final at the Grand Slam Cup here on Friday, handing a place in the final to fellow Swiss Patty Schnyder.

Hingis, who could lose her number one ranking to American Lindsay Davenport in Filderstadt next week, had treatment following the ninth game of the third set as her 5-1 lead over her compatriot dwindled away.

Schnyder advanced 5-7, 7-5, 5-5 after two hours, 11 minutes when Hingis could not go on.

The injury could not have come at a worse time for Hingis as she tries to defend her 79 week old tenure of the top spot.

Davenport, the U.S. Open winner beaten in the quarter-finals on Thursday night by Nathalie Tauziat of France is only 26 points adrift.

Even if Hingis were to manage a miracle repeat of her title, Davenport only needs to make the semi-finals to ensure there is a change at the top of the WTA Tour table after 18 months.

Hingis was unable to capitalise on her 5-1 lead in the final set through two breaks of the 19-year-old Schnyder.

Hingis, 18 only two days ago, lost serve in the eighth game for 5-3 after failing to close out the contest on a match point when she netted a backhand cross-court.

Schnyder held for 4-5 and then Hingis took an injury timeout for treatment on court on her left thigh.

The Swiss top seed lost serve in the next game and walked to the net, her hand outstretched to give up.

Philippoussis downs Bjorkman

Mark Philippoussis continued his dominance over Jonas Bjorkman when he beat the Swede 4-6, 7-6 (7/1), 6-1 on Thursday night to advance to the semi-finals of the \$6.7 million Grand



Venus Williams of the United States returns the ball during her quarter-final match vs. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain at the tennis Compaq Grand Slam tournament in the Munich Olympic hall (AP Photo)

Slam Cup.

The U.S. Open finalist improved his career record against Bjorkman to 5-2. The Australian was in fine form indoors on carpet at the Olympiahalle, raining down 13 aces in a match that lasted 1hr 40min.

After trailing a set and a break to Swedish Davis Cup hero Bjorkman, the 22-year-old Aussie started to connect on his big-hitting game.

Philippoussis swept up the second set tiebreaker and allowed World No.13 Bjorkman little chance to establish a rhythm in the concluding set.

Marcelo Rios, the Australian Open finalist from Chile, was playing Spaniard Felix Mantilla in the final match of the day for another semi-final spot.

On the women's side, Nathalie Tauziat of France fought back against U.S. Open champion Lindsay Davenport for a 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 quarter-final win.

Tauziat, who lost the Wimbledon final last summer to fellow 30-year-old Jana Novotna, was unimpressed by the New York

victory credentials of Davenport, six years her junior.

Tauziat moved into a semi-final against Venus Williams, who overpowered jet-lagged French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-3, 6-2.

The Spaniard had flown in on Monday night from Tokyo, and was still feeling the effects of a 13-hour journey. A week before, she had played in Spain's victorious Fed Cup final in Geneva.

"I'm very tired right now, I've played a lot lately," said Sanchez Vicario. "I was not getting to the ball as fast as normally."

"I know that I didn't play as well as I could, but I tried my best. I left Japan on Monday morning and got here Monday night."

Williams booked her place in the field with a semi-final at the U.S. Open and quarter-finals at the other three majors.

The 18-year-old was playing in Munich for the first time. Her first culinary experience at the height of the Oktoberfest celebration of beer was a Chinese restaurant.

All four of the women's Grand Slam champions are entered here this week, in sharp contrast to the one men's bolder, Petr Korda, on

hand.

Missing from the 12-man field are Wimbledon winner Pete Sampras, U.S. Open champion Pat Rafter and French Open winner Carlos Moya.

In the men's draw, wild card Andre Agassi takes on Korda and Goran Ivanisevic tangles with Karol Kucera.

"I got off to a bit of a slow start," said Philippoussis of his win over Bjorkman. "It was up and down, I had a lot of loose points in the first set."

"I gradually started playing good tennis. I was happy with how I played at the end."

Philippoussis will now play Marcelo Rios after the Chilean won a late-night match over Spain's Felix Mantilla 7-6 (7/2), 7-5.

The Melbourne player refused to be drawn on a possible settlement of his feud with Australia's Davis Cup coach John Newcombe.

Philippoussis has missed this year's play after a spat with officials and his teammates. Newcombe said he is willing to patch things up before the end of the year and is planning to send a fax to the player.

"I'm only concentrating on tournaments now," said Philippoussis.

European Cup Winners' Cup Chelsea, Lazio advance; Paris St. Germain, Newcastle out

LONDON (AP) — Paris St. Germain won the Cup Winners Cup two years ago, Thursday night the one-time French power

was knocked out in the first-round, second-leg by Israel's modest Maccabi Haifa on a goal in second-half injury time.

In the 16-game Cup Winners schedule Thursday, holders Chelsea squeezed through with a 1-0 win at Sweden's Helsingborgs.

But another English club, Newcastle, was eliminated by Partizan Belgrade as Vuc Rasovic's penalty gave the Yugoslavs a 1-0 win, advancing 2-2 on the away goal rule.

Lazio, finalists last season in the UEFA Cup, also just got by with a 2-2 draw in Lausanne, moving through 3-3 on away goals.

In Haifa, Israel, Maccabi won 3-2 and advanced 4-3 when Alon Mizrahi's shot in second-half injury time deflected in off Paris St. Germain player Alain Goma for the deciding goal.

After a scoreless first half, Maccabi took a 1-0 lead in the 69th on full-back Adoram Keisi's shot from five metres.

Nicola Ouedec equalized in the 72nd, but five minutes later Mizrahi scored to give Maccabi a 2-1 lead. J.J. Okacho evened again for the French in the 85th to make it 2-2 and set stage for the dramatic finish.

In Helsingborg, Sweden, the Swedes attacked from the start and dominated. It took Chelsea 25 minutes to get its first shot on goal. Helsingborg, which eliminated Aston Villa in the UEFA Cup two years ago, had the best chance of the match when Zoran Jovanovski's header in the 30th hit goalie Ed De Goey's post.

Midfielder Magnus Powell came close twice,

first with a header that narrowly missed the target and then with a powerful shot that went just wide.

In Lausanne, Chilean striker Marcelo Salas put the Italian side ahead in the 7th, but Lausanne was level three minutes later when midfielder Philippe Douglas scored.

Lazio regained the lead in the 26th with another counterattack as midfielder Sergio Conceicao connected. Lausanne midfielder Stefan Rehn made it 2-2 with an 84th-minute equaliser to put the Italians on edge to the finish.

In Belgrade, Vuc Rasovic scored on the penalty in the 53rd after Newcastle midfielder David Barry was called for pulling down Vladimir Ivic in the area.

The Yugoslavs were the more aggressive side and at one point held a 10-0 advantage in corners. The loss was the first after four straight wins for Ruud Gullit's side.

In other Cup Winners matches.

In Varazdin, Croatia, Varteks Varazdin won 1-0 on a goal by Fahid Kamberovic to advance on a 2-0 aggregate over Rudar Velenje of Slovenia.

In Moscow, Lokomotiv defeated CSKA Kiev 3-1 to advance 5-1.

Dmitry Buliykin scored

in the 19th and 51st and Zara Dzhanshaia added another in the 69th. Serhiy Bezhenar scored for CSKA.

In Jablonec, Czech Republic, Apollon Limassol of Cyprus fell to Czech side Jablonec 2-1 but still advanced 4-3 on penalty kicks after a 3-3 aggregate.

Martin Prochazka scored twice for the Czechs and Marios Themistocleous scored for Apollon.

In Valkeakoski, Finland, Greek side Pathionios moved on with a 3-1 victory over Finland's Haka.

Valkeakoski, The Greeks advanced 5-1 on aggregate. Panayotis Fyssas, Vasilis Kouvalis and Antonis Sapountzis scored for the winners with Haka's goal from Valery Popovich.

In Budapest, Austrian team SV Ried won 1-0 and advanced 3-0 against MTK Hungary. Gerald Strafer scored for the Austrians.

In Trnava, Slovakia, Spartak Trnava defeated Turkey's Besiktas 2-1, but the Turkish side still advanced 4-2 after a 3-0 win in the first leg. Robert Formanko and Jaroslav Timko scored for the Spartak.

In Oslo, Norway, Valerenga and Rapid Bucharest played a 0-0 draw with Valerenga going

through on the away goals rules. The first leg was a 2-2 draw in Bucharest.

In Brussels, Racing Genk won 5-0 and advanced 6-1 over Germany's Duisburg. Souleymane Oulare and Thordur Gudjohnsson scored twice and Branko Strupar got the other.

In Wronki, Poland, Heerenveen defeated Amica Wronki 1-0 and advanced on a 4-1 aggregate. Denis de Nooger scored for Heerenveen.

In Copenhagen, Denmark, FC Copenhagen advanced 6-1 after a 4-1 win over Levski Sofia. Thomas Thorning scored twice with others from Martin Nielsen and Lars Hojer.

In Palma de Mallorca, Mallorca and Hearts drew 1-1 with the Spanish side moving on 2-1. James Hamilton scored for Hearts and Ariel Lopez for Mallorca.

In Braga, Portugal, Braga advanced 4-0 after beating Metalurgs Liepaja of Latvia by the same score. Bruno Ferreira scored twice and Karoglan Mladen and Elpidio Silva got the others.

In Glasgow, Scotland, Rangers won 4-2 and advanced 5-3 to the second round of the UEFA Cup. The other 31 UEFA Cup matches were played Tuesday.

European Cup Winners' Cup second round draw

Lazio (Ita) — Partizan Belgrade (Yug)
Valerenga (Nor) — Besiktas (Tur)
SC Heerenveen (Ned) — Varteks (Cro)
Racing Genk (Bel) — Real Mallorca (Spa)
Panionios (Gre) — Apollon Limassol (Cyp)
SV Ried (Aut) — Maccabi Haifa (Isr)
Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus) — Sporting Braga (Por)
FC Copenhagen (Den) — Chelsea (Eng)

First leg matches to be played on October 22, second leg on November 5

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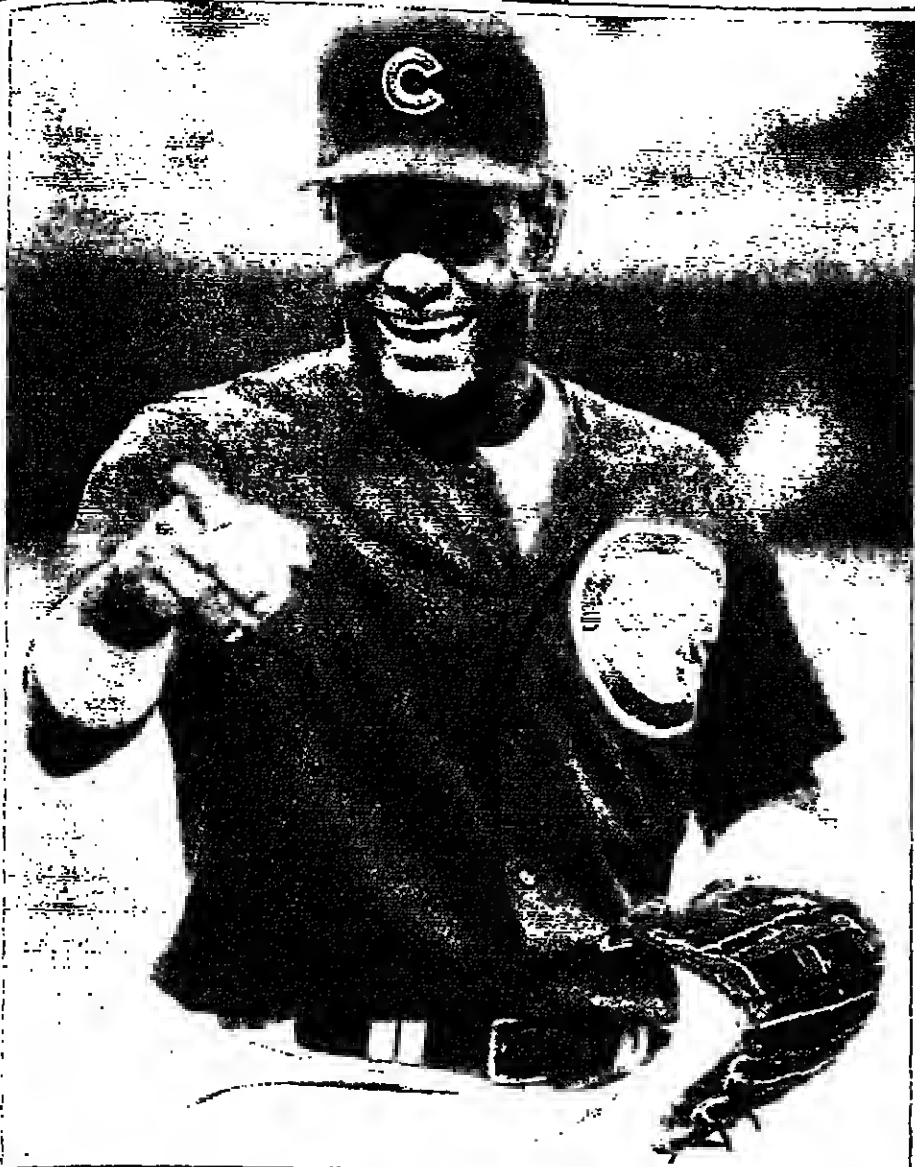
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	Lawrence Fishburn & Andy Garcia .. in HOODLUM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	John Travolta & Olivia Newton-John .. in GREASE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian Adel Imam .. in AL Z'ATEEM Shows: 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	CONCORD '1' NASSER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' UP CLOSE & PERSONAL Shows: 3:30, 5:30 only	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria ARMAGEDDON Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Leonardo Di Caprio & Robert DeNiro .. in MARVIN'S ROOM Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Watch out for the new play



Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa gestures before the start of Game 2 of the 1998 National League Division Series against the Atlanta Braves at Turner Field in Atlanta. The Braves won 2-1 (AP Photo)

Bruguera, Moya advance in Mallorca

PALMA DE MALLORCA, Balearic Islands (AP) — Sergi Bruguera routed fellow Spaniard and second-seeded Alex Corretja 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 Thursday to reach the third round of the Marbella Open clay-court tournament.

Bruguera, two-time French Open champion, but now ranked 126 in the world, hasn't won a tournament since the Czech Open four years ago.

Top-seeded Carlos Moya of Spain easily defeated Slava Dosedel of the Czech Republic 6-4, 6-4 and will face Thomas Schiessling of Austria who defeated Yugoslav Vemic Dusan 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Spain's Fernando Vicente, ousted countryman and No. 3 seed Albert Costa 7-6 (7-3), 4-6, 6-3.

Tommy Haas of Germany needed three sets to defeat fourth-seeded Alberto Berasategui of Spain 5-7, 6-1, 6-4.

Eighth-seeded Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil rolled over Spaniard Oscar Serrano 6-1, 6-1, and next plays Bruguera.

Jordan again dominates on final day of Arabian Horse Festival

By Randa Naffa

HUMMAR — The 10th International Arabian Horse Festival at Home came to an end Friday with Jordan winning four out of six titles in the Middle East Championship on the final day of the four-day festival, which also included a ridden class competition and a dressage event.

Jordanian entries put an extraordinary showing by topping the Junior and Senior Male titles, in addition to the Junior and Senior Liberty titles with Rostom of the Royal Jordanian Stud, Royal of Jaafar Stud, Qamar Al Leil and Safaa (daughter of former four-time winner Jerash), both from the Royal Jordanian Stud winning the aforementioned titles respectively.

Qatar's Arabian horses took home the two other titles of the Middle East Championship with R.N. Farida owned by Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ben Khalid Al Thani winning the Junior Female competition, and Kamasayyah of Al Shaqab Stud winning the Senior Male competition.

The United Arab Emirates also made their mark when Zabeil owned by Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayyan won the ridden class competition.

The festival which was attended by a huge crowd, was acclaimed as an all-round success by organisers and participants alike.

"I am pleased with the organisation and the outstanding performance of Jordanian horses," said one participant.

The power and grace of the Arabian Horse was

sensed during the Liberty competition when the horses were set free in the field.

Peter Upton of the U.K., one of the senior judges, who has attended all ten festivals said: "The horse at the liberty competition is given the freedom to run in the field for 1 and 1/2 minute and show how well he/she can move and balance."

"The more the horse moves gracefully and the more he holds up his tail and bends his hind legs, the more marks he/she receives. The Arabian horse here becomes like a belly dancer," he told the Jordan Times.

At the end of the event HRH Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein president of the Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation presented prizes to the winners and thanked all participants.

Qatar, the UAE, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, the United States and Jordan took part in the festival this year which saw a high level of competition which has witnessed a qualitative leap in the breeding and training of horses, stud owners said.

On Thursday, flat races were held at the Royal Race Club in Tunesia.

The 1,000-metre race was won by Zein Al Kheil; the 1,400-metre race was won by Nijnt Hala; Sunhui won the 1,000-metre (Abu Dhabi prize) and Bahij won the 2,000-metre race.

The final event of the festival, sponsored by Emirates Airlines, will be the annual endurance race which will be held Oct. 9.

Saudi Arabia crowned Arab Cup champions

By a Staff Reporter

SAUDI ARABIA were crowned Arab Cup champions Thursday following their impressive 3-1 win over Qatar in the final match of the 12-team event held in Doha, Qatar.

Saudi Arabia won their first title after Obeid Dossari scored in the 28th, 49th, 64th minutes before Moubarak scored his team's face-saving goal in the 82nd minute.

The Saudis took home \$40,000 while the hosts settled for \$30,000.

In an earlier match, Kuwait who had eliminated titleholders Egypt, beat the UAE 4-1 to take third place.

Both teams received \$20,000.

On their way to the final the Saudis had eliminated Kuwait 2-1 while Qatar overcame the UAE by the same score.

Jordan was eliminated in the first round after failing to clinch the sole qualifying berth from Group 1 losing 2-0 to Qatar and beating Libya 2-1.

Egypt, and the rest of North African countries entered their Olympic teams rather than national teams in preparation for the Sydney Olympics.

Jordan's elimination was the sixth time the team failed to get past the first round throughout their seven

participation since the championship first kicked off in 1963. The Kingdom achieved the best result in the 5th Cup hosted in Amman in 1988 where Jordan took fourth place.

Jordan played a total of 23 Arab Cup matches winning only four, drawing in three and losing 16 matches.

To this day, the team scored only 15 goals while allowing 54 in.

Iraq are the four time titleholders. Tunisia and Egypt have won it once each, while Syria are three time runners-up.

Shearer named player of the month

LONDON (AFP) — Newcastle striker Alan Shearer was named Friday as the winner of the English Premiership player of the month award for September.

Shearer's six league goals in September gave the England captain his first outright award although he was a joint winner with Chris Sutton in November 1994.

The awards panel, which includes England coach Glenn Hoddle, said: "Newcastle were languishing in 17th place at the end of August, but Shearer's firepower has helped take them to fifth by the end of September."

"His six goals in four league games during the month show he's back to his lethal best and, with the vital European qualifying game against Bulgaria next week, that's got to be good news for England fans."

Beckenbauer backs United for Euro glory

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Former Germany captain and manager Franz Beckenbauer believes Manchester United have the firepower to win the European Cup.

The former World Cup-winning coach was highly impressed with the English giants after their 2-2 draw against Bayern Munich in Group D on Wednesday when they were only denied victory by a last-minute equaliser having gone behind to a goal with more than a hint of off-side.

Beckenbauer, who won Europe's most coveted prize three times with Bayern in the 1970s and is now the club's president, said United's front line was one of the most dangerous in

Europe and could be the key to their ultimate success.

"If Manchester United continue the way they have been playing, then not only can they win the group, but then can also win the Champions' League," he said.

"I think they are good enough and the whole team is so well organised."

"Their potential up front is tremendous and they always looks capable of scoring goals. They scored three in Manchester against Barcelona and now two away in Munich."

"They are so strong in offence that in each game they can score two or three goals. It's hard to pick up individuals in such a team and I think every single

player is world-class."

United are third in Group D — the so-called Group of Death — with two points after drawing their opening two games.

Only the winner looks likely to qualify from the group and United could greatly enhance their chances by recording back-to-back victories over Brondby in their next matches.

The Danish league and cup winners caused a few raised eyebrows when they beat Bayern 2-1 in their opening game, but Beckenbauer felt the scoreline did not reflect the match.

He is adamant United will sweep United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel's old club aside — just like they did when they beat them 6-0 in a pre-season friendly.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Giggs out of Wales match

CARDIFF (AFP) — Ryan Giggs has withdrawn from the Wales squad to play Denmark on October 10 on the advice of his club Manchester United after suffering a badly bruised foot and ankle injury against Liverpool. Norwich's Craig Bellamy is promoted from the under-21 squad to take Giggs' place. Wales manager Bobby Gould said he hoped to have Giggs back for the match against Belarus four days later. He added: "It is obviously a great disappointment to lose Ryan for the match in Denmark after playing so well against Italy. "We are hopeful that the injury will respond to treatment and that he will be available for the match against Belarus in Cardiff."

England cancel Yugoslavia friendly

LONDON (AFP) — The Football Association (FA) announced Friday that they have cancelled England's friendly against Yugoslavia at Wembley next month because of unrest in Kosovo. A spokesman for the FA said going ahead with the match "in the current circumstances would be insensitive in the extreme and wrong."

Strunz out for 4 weeks

MUNICH (AFP) — Bayern Munich star Thomas Strunz is out of action for four weeks after undergoing surgery here Friday. The 30-year-old, who pulled his right calf muscle in Wednesday's 2-2 draw with Manchester United, is now out of contention for Germany's European Championship qualifiers against Turkey on October 10 and Moldavia on October 14. "Up to now I was in top shape," the German international said from a Munich clinic.

Bulgarians resolve row

SOFIA (AFP) — The Bulgarian Ministry of Sport said Thursday that it has resolved a row with the national football federation, meaning the Bulgarian side can go ahead with its European Championship qualifying match against England at Wembley on October 10. The match had been thrown into doubt because world governing body FIFA were threatening to expel Bulgaria from international competition after the government sacked leading members of the national FA. The Sports Ministry backed down on Thursday and said they had informed FIFA that the FA would continue to control both the national team and domestic competition.

Leeds fans want Strachan

LEEDS (AFP) — Coventry boss Gordon Strachan is the man Leeds fans want to take over from George Graham as manager at the English Premiership club. In a 24-hour poll on the official Leeds website, Strachan, a former fans' favourite during his playing days with Leeds, came top with 25.3 percent of votes. Second was Leicester manager Martin O'Neill (23.4 percent), followed by caretaker-boss David O'Leary (18.4), former Newcastle, Liverpool and Blackburn boss Kenny Dalglish (5.5) and former England manager Bobby Robson (1.8).

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Taleban accuse Iranian air force of violating Afghan airspace

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Iranian military planes entered Afghanistan three times Friday across the tense border, the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) quoted Taleban officials as saying.

The officials told AIP from Kandahar inside Afghanistan that the "violations" occurred in the morning and involved helicopters and fighter planes.

There was no immediate independent confirmation of the report by the Pakistan-based agency.

Taleban officials said that 10 helicopters initially entered the Afghan airspace over Herat and Nimroz regions, followed by "intrusions" by batches of 15 and 10 fighter aircraft at short intervals.

They said Taleban forces did not take any action against the intruders as part of their policy of restraint advised by a gathering of

Afghan religious scholars in Kabul late last month.

Tensions have mounted between Shiite Muslim Iran and the Sunni Muslim Taleban over the militia's murder of Iranian diplomats in northern Afghanistan in August.

Iran has vowed to exact revenge, but promised first to exhaust all political channels to resolve the crisis.

Around 200,000 Iranian army troops have been stationed at the border with Afghanistan to prepare for Zolfaqar-2 manoeuvres due to be held shortly.

Tens of thousands of the elite forces of the revolutionary guards, used as a rapid-action intervention force, have also been deployed there to maintain security.

An Iranian military commander boasted Thursday he could crush the Taleban

in two days, stepping up the rhetoric as the government pursued diplomatic efforts to isolate the hardline militia in Afghanistan.

But the general said Iran's policy is to "exercise restraint towards Afghanistan, while it stays mighty and ready."

Iran's Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi, presently in New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly, discussed the situation in Afghanistan late Wednesday with his counterparts from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Qatar.

He also held talks with the deputy foreign minister of ousted Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, whose government is still recognised by the international community — except for Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

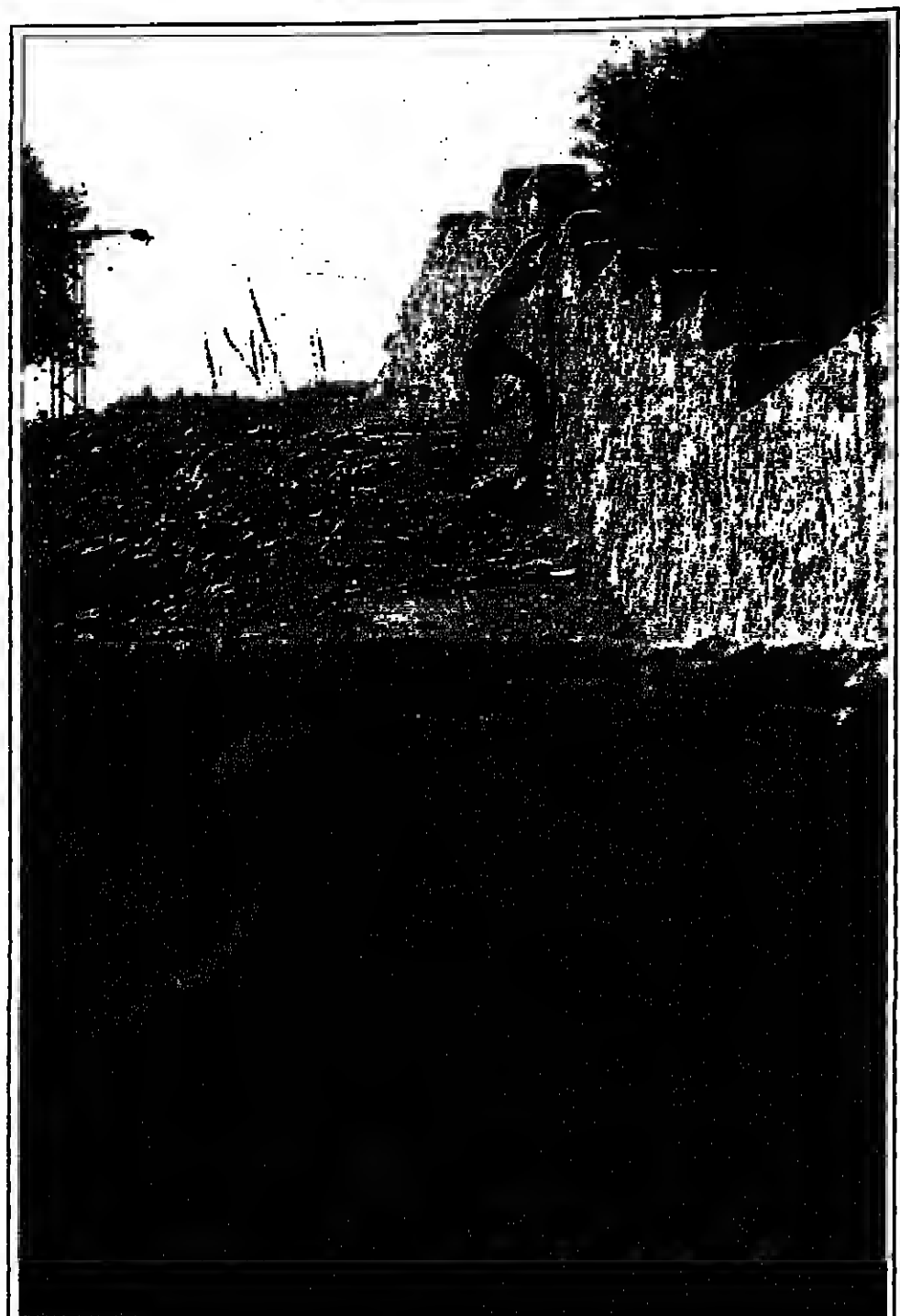
Kharazi also called for a

broad-based government in Afghanistan, according to Iran's official news agency IRNA.

In a meeting with Izzeddine Laraki, secretary general of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Kharazi renewed demands that the Taleban release dozens of detained Iranians and arrest the militiamen who killed the eight Iranian diplomats and a journalist.

The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council last week called for a ceasefire in Afghanistan and an end to arms sales to the two sides fighting.

Lakhdar Brahimi, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan's special envoy, is due to arrive in Tehran on Saturday and will spend several days there before travelling to Pakistan, Iran's rival for influence in Afghanistan.



SNEAKING INTO ISRAEL: A Palestinian youth at the Jerusalem-Bethlehem road-block scales a wall separating the West Bank from Israel proper as he sneaks into Israel behind the back of an Israeli border policeman enforcing the closure on Friday. On Friday Israel sealed its borders with the West Bank and Gaza indefinitely following warnings by the defence minister that the Islamist group Hamas plotted an 'unprecedented horrific' attack in Israel (AP photo)

'Turkey, Syria in undeclared war'

ANKARA (R) — The head of Turkey's influential military was quoted on Friday as saying the country was in a state of undeclared war with Syria over Damascus' alleged support for Kurdish rebels.

Syria, suspicious of Turkey's growing military ties with Israel, said this alliance was behind the rise in tension between the two neighbours.

"There is a state of undeclared war between us and Syria. We are trying to be patient but that has a limit," the newspaper Sabah quoted Turkey's military chief of staff General Huseyin Kivrikoglu as saying. Other papers had similar reports.

Defence Minister Ismet Sezgin ruled out any immediate military action against Syria, which shares a 877-kilometre border with NATO member Turkey.

"Intervention is out of the question," state-run Anatolian news agency quoted Sezgin as saying.

Ties between Turkey and Syria, often strained, have worsened in recent weeks as

they exchanged accusations over Turkey's growing military links to Israel, water sharing and Syria's alleged aid to the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels.

President Suleyman Demirel said on Thursday that Turkey might retaliate against Syria in the Kurdish issue.

Syria's official press reacted angrily on Friday and said Turkey's informal ally Israel was behind the escalation.

"It came as a result of full coordination between Ankara and Tel Aviv in accordance with their alliance," the official newspaper Al Baath said in front-page comment.

Turkish truck drivers returning from Syria said they saw tanks and armoured units moving towards the border with Turkey on Thursday, Anatolian said.

Turkey's Hurriyet newspaper, close to the security apparatus, said generals had suggested a limited offensive into Syria similar to regular operations conducted by the Turkish army, the second biggest in NATO, into

Kurdish-ruled northern Iraq.

Spokesmen for Turkey's general staff have denied reports of a build-up of Turkish troops and armour near Syria, saying any movements in the area were part of NATO exercises.

Turkish media said the war games "Enemy," marked on NATO maps as "Yellow land," represented Syria.

Western observers say the muscle flexing is more likely to be to prepare for later, more limited strikes.

"This is more along the lines of laying the groundwork for international opinion to say that there is a problem that Turkey takes very seriously. They could be laying the groundwork for more serious action later," a Western diplomat said.

"It's not as if they are going to cross the border soon or anything," since exclusion from European Union expansion last year, Turkey has sought influence elsewhere. United in common interests and shared rivals, Turkey has signed defence agreements

with the other big regional military power, Israel.

Israeli jets are allowed to train in Turkish airspace and Israel is upgrading Turkish fighter planes. Intelligence is said to be shared and the pair have announced plans for fresh naval manoeuvres in the eastern Mediterranean and joint air exercises.

Syria is still technically at war with the Jewish state and feels particularly threatened by links between Israel and the Turks, whose Ottoman Empire once ruled much of the Arab World.

Turkish officials have suggested air strikes on Lebanon's Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley where the PKK is believed to train guerrillas to fight for Kurdish self-rule in Turkey's southeast. Nearly 29,000 people have been killed in 14 years of conflict.

U.S. raids against sites in Sudan and Afghanistan may be seen by Turkey as a precedent for its own strikes against what it views as PKK terrorist camps in Syria.

Iraq demands probe of inspectors over ties to Israel, CIA

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq has accused United Nations arms inspectors of working with foreign intelligence agencies hostile to the country and demanded a special investigation into the U.N. commission overseeing the inspections.

The government made the accusation in a letter from Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan that was reported Thursday night on Iraqi state television and quoted in Friday's Iraqi dailies.

The Iraqi action follows reports in Israeli and American newspapers quoting former arms inspector Scott Ritter as saying he dealt with Israeli intelligence and the CIA in seeking information on Iraq's weapons programme.

In his letter Aziz urged an official investigation on the U.N. Special Commission's "connections and intelligence work that is hostile to Iraq." The letter added such a step was necessary to "guarantee the United Nations' credibility, neutrality and reputation."

The Iraqi government has long maintained that some of the arms inspectors were spies. Ritter, in particular, and that the U.N. Special Commission, known as UNSCOM, was not a neutral agency but worked under the thumb of the United States.

The arms inspectors have the job of certifying that Iraq has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction, a necessary step under U.N. resolutions before the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait can be lifted.

Referring to Ritter's quoted comments, Aziz' letter said "these statements show serious facts of which Iraq has warned several times."

"UNSCOM, which works in the name of the U.N. Security Council... is firmly connected with the intelligence agencies of states that pursue anti-Iraq policies," the letter said.

"The main source of information UNSCOM uses to peddle its false claims, to carry out exposed espionage on Iraq, and to fabricate crises, are U.S. and Israeli sources," Aziz said in the letter.

He added that "the statements by Scott Ritter clearly show that UNSCOM had not only collected information, but studied with the U.S. and Israeli intelligence services ways to carry out its work in Iraq." Iraq has long maintained that it has fulfilled its obligation under U.N. resolutions, but the arms inspectors say the government of President Saddam Hussein continues to hide weapons and the means to make more.

Ritter, who resigned in an angry letter on Aug. 26, has since spoken out several times on Iraq's weapons programmes, maintaining the United States and Britain did not stand behind UNSCOM as it tried to do its job.

On Thursday, U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said the chief weapons inspector, Richard Butler, had criticised Ritter for making public details about Iraq's weapons programmes. Butler wrote a letter to Ritter accusing him of violating his U.N. contract by speaking to the press, Eckhard said.

4 Lebanese deported from occupied zone

RASHAYA (AP) — Israeli security agents in occupied southern Lebanon on Friday expelled two couples whose sons were involved in anti-Israeli activities, Lebanese security officials said.

Israeli forces and their allies of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in the occupied zone have in the past punished by expulsion inhabitants deemed a security threat.

The four Druze men and women walked some four kilometres to a Lebanese army checkpoint on the edge of the occupied zone.

They were interrogated by Lebanese army officers on the reasons for their expulsion before they were allowed to

drive to Beirut, the officials said, speaking on customary condition of anonymity.

Two of the four, Fawaz Munzir, 42, and his wife Adiyeh Munzir, 46, are the parents of Naji Munzir, who killed Nidal Nasr, a suspected collaborator with Israel and its proxy Lebanese militia.

The body of Nasr, a Syrian, was found in a valley in the eastern sector of the occupied zone Wednesday. In July, Nasr had replaced Raja Ward, a senior SLA security official who fled the Israeli occupation zone and provided the Lebanese army with information that led to the arrest of 17 people suspected of spying for Israel.

'Washington tries to negotiate understanding on unilateral steps'

RAMALLAH (AP) — The United States is trying to coax a pledge from Israel not to expand Jewish settlements, in exchange for assurances from the Palestinians that they will not encourage illegal construction, a Palestinian negotiator said Friday.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has offered each side a letter guaranteeing that the other will refrain from certain unilateral steps, said the negotiator, Saeb Erekat.

Erekat said the Palestinians have accepted the proposed trade, but that "I don't know this morning where Mr. Netanyahu stands on these issues," referring to the Israeli prime minister.

The United States has intensified efforts to conclude a long-overdue agreement on an Israeli troop pullback from 13 per cent of the West Bank.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will arrive in the Middle East on Tuesday to try and narrow the gaps ahead of an Oct. 15-19 Mideast summit in Washington, Erekat said.

During her two-day stay, Albright will meet

Arafat: No progress in talks with Clinton

RAMALLAH (R) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said on Friday no "substantive" progress had been made in his talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington this week on breaking the impasse in Middle East peacemaking.

"No substantive progress can really be cited, no substantive steps or even changes in the behaviour on the ground can be cited," Arafat said in a speech delivered in English by a top Palestinian negotiator.

Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. The U.S. Mideast envoy, Dennis Ross, will accompany her and stay on until Oct. 12.

Earlier this week, Clinton hosted Netanyahu and Arafat in a three-way summit and also held separate talks with the leaders.

Erekat said U.S. officials proposed a trade under which each side would refrain from a number of unilateral steps.

"We will be asked in an American-Palestinian understanding, for instance, not to question Israel's credentials at the United Nations," Erekat told a Palestinian-European conference in Ramallah.

The Americans also proposed that the Palestinian National Authority coordinate with Israel on the granting of construction permits in West Bank areas still under Israeli control, the negotiator said.

In exchange, Israel would agree not to expand Jewish settlements and not to demolish some 1,800 Palestinian homes built without permits.

An Israeli official said he was not familiar with the U.S. proposal, but said it was highly unlikely Israel would agree to such a trade. The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

Lebanese presidential election: Suspense, few candidates, one voter

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's presidential race is more suspenseful than most. Though the vote must be held by Oct. 23, the likely favourite has yet to declare, and the single voter who will really choose the winner has yet to decide.

"The elections are lost between fast track and delay," said a headline in the newspaper Al Diyar Friday, describing the confusion over Lebanon's first new head of state to be chosen in peacetime in nearly three decades.

Most Lebanese agree no one can win without approval in advance from Lebanon's dominant neighbour, Syria. Once Syria gives its view, the 128-member Parliament elects the president which, under the constitution, it must do by Oct. 23 to allow a transition before President Elias Hrawi leaves office Nov. 24.

Although there are no campaign rallies or fiery speeches, the race dominates newspapers and TV news. The news is all about backroom wrangling

and trips to Damascus, a three-hour drive away, by politicians seeking signals from Syria.

And despite their lack of say in the outcome, most Lebanese are hoping a new head of state will bring much needed optimism — and political stability — as the nation still struggles to recover from the devastating 1975-90 civil war.

As it is now, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's multi-billion dollar reconstruction programme has been repeatedly stymied by feuding among the nation's president, prime minister and parliament speaker.

The most popular candidate with the public — although he has not declared his candidacy — is the army commander, General Emile Lahoud, who enjoys good relations with Syria.

Syrian President Hafez Assad has not sent word on how he will cast his all-important ballot.

"It is still early," Hariri said this week after a visit to Damascus, replying to a

question about when the presidential election would be decided.

In this tiny, politically weak country of 3.2 million people, the choice has always depended on outside forces — Syria, the United States and Lebanon's traditional patron France — as well as competing interests inside the country.

But Syria, which maintains 30,000 troops here, now has a much stronger say over who will be Lebanon's president.

"Syria names, America may or may not approve and Europe is notified," commentator Gibran Tuaini wrote in a recent editorial in the independent daily Al Nahar.

Still, Syria must consider internal factors such as public acceptance of the candidate — especially the Christian view since the president is always a Maronite Catholic under a tradition that makes the prime minister a Sunni Muslim and the parliament speaker a Shiite Muslim.

Lahoud, 62, faces an array of

declared and undeclared candidates, prominent among them are three cabinet ministers and three opposition politicians.

But for Lahoud to have a shot at the nation's highest office, the constitution must be amended to allow active senior state employees to run.

That shouldn't be a problem. Three years ago, when Hrawi's single, constitutionally limited six-year term was running out, the pro-Syrian parliament created an extension desired by Syria.

And another extension this time around is still not completely ruled out.

While awaiting Assad's word may be frustrating, it is better than the violence surrounding the presidency during the civil war when two elected heads of state were assassinated.

One elected president, Bashir Gemayel, was killed in a bomb explosion 10 days before he could take office in 1982. In 1989, President Rene Mouawad was assassinated after only 17 days in office.

Calcutta still mourning Brazil's defeat in World Cup

CALCUTTA (AP) — The soccer-crazy city of Calcutta in eastern India is still mourning Brazil's defeat in the World Cup held earlier this year in France. As part of their biggest religious festival being celebrated Thursday, Calcutta's residents have installed statues of their fallen hero, Ronaldo, along with those of Goddess Durga, the principal deity honoured during Dussehra. To vent their disappointment over Ronaldo's performance, traditional idol makers have shown Goddess Durga slaying the Brazilian striker in place of the traditional demon.

Roseanne offers seven figures for Monica appearance

WASHINGTON (AP) — The new kid on the talk show block said Thursday she is prepared to offer Monica Lewinsky at least \$1 million to appear on her programme and answer questions.

Roseanne said she will pay "seven figures... times two or three" for a chance to interview the former White House intern on "The Roseanne Show." "We'll pay her big," Roseanne said on CNN's "Larry King Live" show. Ms. Lewinsky's spokeswoman could not be reached for comment. Earlier in the week, daytime television Queen Oprah Winfrey said her negotiations to bring Ms. Lewinsky on her syndicated show fell apart over money.

Tom Cruise plays a real-life hero

LONDON (AP) — Tom Cruise got a chance to play a real-life hero, according to a woman who says the actor came to her aid during an emergency. Rita Simmonds told the Evening Standard in Thursday's editions that Cruise ran to her rescue Sept. 23 as attackers pulled open the door of her Porsche and yanked off more than \$119,000 worth of jewellery.

"Tom was brilliant," Simmonds, Cruise's neighbour, told the newspaper. Cruise is renting a house near Regent's Park in London with his wife, Nicole Kidman, and their children. Kidman is currently appearing in a sold-out production of "The Blue Room" at a West End theatre.

Claire Dane's apology not accepted

MANILA (AP) — Claire Dane's apology for her disparaging remarks about Manila wasn't big enough for the Philippines' president, a former movie star himself.

"She should not be allowed to come here. She should not even be allowed to set foot here," President Joseph Estrada said. On Tuesday, the City Council declared the 19-year-old actress persona non grata and banned all her movies because she called Manila smelly, rat-infested and weird.

Dane, who appeared in "The Rainmaker," was in Manila for several months this year to shoot "Brokendown Palace."

Lennon's obscenity-laden poem put up for auction

LONDON (AP) — An obscenity-laden poem written by John Lennon will be put up for auction by the fan who received it almost 30 years ago. The typed work is made up of a four-letter explosive repeated 104 times around the single word "you." It was sent to poet Susan Baker in 1969 after she wrote to the Beatles requesting a poem. It is signed by Lennon and his wife, Yoko Ono. Robert Finan of the auction house Finan and Co. said the poem is too unusual to estimate how much it might bring.